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1912

ANNUAL REPORT

Dependent and Delinquent Children

Alberta

DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

Printed by the direction of the
Honourable C. W. Cross, Attorney General



R. B. Chadwick

EDMONTON

Superintendent

EDMONTON, February 7th, 1913.


THE HONOURABLE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ALBERTA,
Parliament Buildings.

Sir,—I beg to submit herewith the Fourth Annual Report of the work of this office, under *The Children's Protection Act of Alberta*, being for the year ending October 31st, 1912.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. B. CHADWICK,
Superintendent.



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DEVELOPMENT OF LAWS FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

The historical development of the evolution of laws for the protection of children has been given in former reports of this Department, consequently nothing will be said in the report of this year in connection with the development of children's laws from the view-point of the historian alone. However, it might be well to say something of the development of children's laws in the Province of Alberta, as the general public are well versed in the circumstances surrounding the introduction of laws for the protection of children.

The Industrial Schools Act

On March 5th, 1908, the *Industrial Schools Act* was assented to by the Legislative Assembly of the Province, the bill having been introduced by the Honourable C. W. Cross, Attorney General of the Province.

Under that Act the Attorney General was empowered to appoint a Superintendent of Industrial Schools. The appointment being made, the Superintendent was instructed to bring in a report, and make recommendations as to the best methods of dealing with the problem of the delinquent and neglected child, in its relationship to Alberta. The Superintendent appointed was instructed to visit various points of interest on the American Continent and to base his report on the investigations of the systems of these institutions.

The report was prepared and submitted after a study of the various systems used in the larger centres on the American Continent in dealing with the child problem, starting with the Juvenile Courts and following on through the Industrial Schools and other institutions which are endeavouring to cope with the problem of the re-absorption of the delinquent child into the normal life of the community.

During this investigation some forty-five Industrial Schools, dealing with both sexes, were visited, and their methods gone into carefully. This in addition to the investigation of the systems of some fifty-five Juvenile Courts throughout the Continent.

The report of the Superintendent, which was submitted to the Honourable the Attorney General some six months after the appointment of the Superintendent, recommended that, owing to the cost of the installation of the modern Cottage System institution, and owing to the fact that the Province of Manitoba was prepared to accept the care and training of boys needing Industrial School training at the Industrial School at Portage la Prairie, an agreement should be entered into with that Province for the care of boys who were beyond the stage where it was possible to deal with them outside of an Industrial School.

The findings of the report as to the best laws for the protection of children were based on a consensus of judgment of the leaders in this particular section of sociological work, not only on the American Continent, but from other available sources of information, such as the Departments of Justice of France and Germany, the Quarrier Schools System of Scotland, the Barnardo Association of Great Britain, the Child Emigration Societies of Norway and Sweden, and the Department of Child Emigration of Austria.

The Children's Protection Act

The report of the Superintendent in reference to this matter was submitted to the Honourable the Attorney General, and at the Legislative Assembly of 1909, the Honourable C. W. Cross introduced the "Children's Protection Act" of Alberta. This Act was copied largely from the "Children's Protection Act" of Ontario, and was introduced with the understanding that amendments would be made from time to time in order that the Act would become workable under conditions as found in the Province of Alberta. The Alberta Act at the present time is regarded as the broadest Children's Protection Act in force on the American Continent.

The amendments which were necessary to the original Act were numerous, in order that the problem could receive the attention which it justly demands. Among the more prominent amendments, and one which has caused most favourable comment, is the amendment requiring that all municipalities of ten thousand population and over shall provide places for the reception and care of children, and requiring such municipalities to appoint and pay officers to enforce this Act. In the event of municipalities failing to make such provision, the Superintendent is empowered to make the appointments and take the necessary steps to have such institutions provided.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

The first Children's Aid Society organized in Alberta was launched in Calgary, and started with the employment of one agent, and an arrangement with the Salvation Army for the care of children needing institutional care or temporary homes. This arrangement was quickly followed by the transferring of the home to the Old Maternity Hospital. Calgary now has two men and one woman officer giving their full time to the work, besides the staff of the Shelter.

The organization at Calgary was quickly followed by an organization at Edmonton and the appointment of one officer. Edmonton now has two officers in the field and a competent office staff in charge of the work, in addition to the Shelter staff. Lethbridge shortly afterwards appointed an officer and erected a Shelter building, and Medicine Hat has agreed to appoint an officer at an early date.

Experience has proven that the organization of large Children's Aid Societies in small places is not desirable, as such organizations become too cumbersome to accomplish the work for which they are designed, and unless it is possible to gather together a group of men and women who are interested in the problem, to do the work, the formation of a large Society is more dangerous than useful for the protection of the child.

It has been the policy of the Department of Neglected Children, in dealing with the problem in small towns, to appoint a committee of from two to five interested individuals, who will take up the cases of neglected or abused children, or follow up cases of delinquency, as the occasion may require. The difficulty confronting the average small town is that there is very little that can be done by the organization, aside from constant agitation for better conditions and the enforcement of the laws for the protection of children. A committee as outlined above can do better work than a large organization in a small town.

The Work of Children's Aid Societies

The work of all Children's Aid Societies is primarily the protection of children and the prevention of crime. Among the objects, however, are the development of playgrounds, gymnasias, public parks, baths, and all institutions which counteract crime in the community. Where Children's Aid Societies or Committees have been organized, and the spirit of the "Children's Protection Act" lived up to, the results have shown in higher ideals of citizenship, and a general higher moral tone in the community.

Particular attention is directed to the report of the President and Agent of the Children's Aid Society of Edmonton, as the work in Edmonton stands out prominently as the best work in

the Province, and as a standard to which it is desirable that other points in the Province should endeavour to reach. The actual work of the Society and the Shelter is nearer the ideal stage of what this work should be than any other place that we have in the Province.

Children admitted to the Shelter in Edmonton are first classified physically, and thoroughly examined by the visiting physician. They are then graded according to their mental capacities and are placed in the care of a school teacher, who has charge of a school in the institution under the supervision of the School Board of the City, and it is largely upon the report of the matron, who in turn bases her report upon the experience of the medical man and the school teacher, that the Department selects the class of home to which a child should be sent.

THE PROBLEM IN ALBERTA.

The Neglected Child

The problem of the neglected child in Alberta is such a large one that it is impossible to cover the many points, which should be covered, in the space to which this report must be confined.

A neglected child under the meaning of the "Children's Protection Act" is as follows:—

"Neglected child" shall mean a child who is found begging, receiving alms, thieving in a public place, sleeping at night in the open air, wandering about at late hours, associating or dwelling with a thief, drunkard or vagrant, or who is incorrigible or cannot be controlled by its parents, or who is employed anywhere between the hours of ten o'clock p.m. of one day and six o'clock a.m. of the following day, or a child who by reason of the neglect, drunkenness or other vice of its parents, is growing up without salutary parental control and education, or in circumstances exposing such child to an idle and dissolute life; or who is found in a house of ill-

fame, or known to associate with or be in the company of a reputed prostitute, or who is an habitual vagrant, or habitual truant; or an orphan and destitute; or deserted by its parents; or whose only parent is undergoing imprisonment for crime; or who by reason of ill-treatment, continual personal injury or grave misconduct or improper home training or habitual intemperance of its parents or either of them is in peril of loss of life, health or morality; or in respect to whom its parents or only parent have or has been convicted of an offence against this Act, or under the Criminal Code; or whose home by reason of neglect, cruelty or depravity, is an unfit place for such child, and "neglected children" shall mean two or more of such children.

While in many cases neglect under the meaning of the Act can readily be construed to mean carelessness or positively criminal neglect on the part of the parents, in other cases the parents are desirous of doing the best for their children, but are handicapped by conditions over which they have no control, and it is impossible for them to accomplish the desires which they have for the betterment of conditions. A report of an agent in one district of the province can illustrate this better than any other method.



"Case number....., report submitted as follows:—Father employed by, earning capacity \$45.00 per month.



Four children in the home as follows: Jennie, aged eight years; Mary, aged six years; Johnny, four years, and Teresa, aged sixteen months. Family living in shack 12'x14', and paying a rent of \$18.00 per month. Father is an intermittent drunkard, employed only part of the time in the capacity of a coal miner's labourer. Children attended school irregularly. Youngest child sick with scarletina at time of visit of inspector. No doctor had been called in to visit the home. When home was visited the mother was attempting to do family washing, with children running around. Place poorly ventilated. Sick child lying on only bed in room. Enquiry elicited the fact that the bed was occupied by the whole family, that the parents were too poor to secure the services of a doctor and that the mother took care of the sick child, doing the best she could for her."

The father was located and stated that he only had intermittent work and that he could average in pay about \$45.00 per month. When asked about his drinking habits he stated that he did not see that they

interfered in any way with his home life, and that his children were as well cared for as other people's children.

In this case the sick child was removed to the hospital and properly cared for. The rest of the children were temporarily removed from the home and when once the parents caught the idea that unless the home conditions were improved they might lose their children altogether the result was a permanent improvement. A better class of work was secured for the man and a new house with more accommodation was rented and the children sent to school. The man realizing that he was under supervision made it a point to keep away from saloons with the result that inside of six months he paid his first instalment on the purchase contract for the home to which they had been moved.

Had this case been allowed to drift the result would have been the death of one, at least, of the children, the ruin both physically and morally of the rest of the children of the family, the discouragement of the parents, and probably their falling into lives of vice and crime.

Homes Held Together

It has been the policy of the Department of Neglected Children to avoid breaking up a home until every other recourse has failed.

The home of the child is the natural place of protection, and the parents are its natural guardians. In the event of the parents failing in their responsibilities it becomes the duty of the State to see that the child is given a chance to become the high grade citizen which is the inherent right of every child. It will be gathered from the instance cited in the last paragraph that the Department of Neglected Children is in the habit of doing its best to adjust matters before a child is removed from the home. In the majority of cases it is found possible to make this adjustment, but unfortunately there are many cases when it becomes absolutely necessary for the protection of the child, to remove it entirely from the influence and environment to which its life is exposed, and which sooner or later would result in absolute criminality, through contact with crime. It is always a calamity to break up a home and this drastic method should be used only when all other methods have been tried and failed.



Family of eleven poor class Negroes occupied this shack.

Housing Problem in Relation to Neglect of Children

The crowded circumstances under which people are at times compelled to live, breed conditions of neglect and an atmosphere which eventually develops the criminal. Many of these conditions would be removed by the parents of children promptly, were they in a position to remove them. There are isolated cases where, for mercenary reasons, parents are crowding children together under the most unsanitary and immoral conditions that are conceivable. These conditions eventually come to the notice of the Medical Health Officer of the municipality or the Province and are remedied through compulsion under the "Medical Health Act" but in other cases the conditions of crowding are continued in spite of any effort that can be made to break them up.

The Cheap Rooming House

The cheap rooming houses in the larger centres of the Province are the most flagrant offenders and it is most difficult to secure

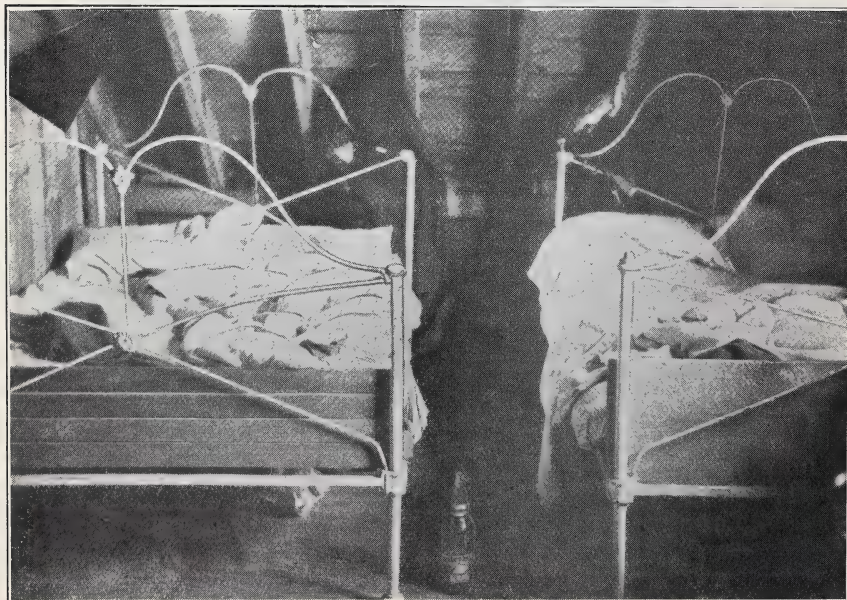
evidence against the proprietors of these places. The keepers of the class of rooming house referred to will rent every bit of available space and crowd their own families, possibly with one or two of the poorer type of boarders, that is those of the least earning capacity, into any out-of-the-way corner that they can find.

In one instance in a city in the province fifty-nine roomers occupied a nine-roomed house. The family, consisting of a man and wife and four children, occupied one room with two female boarders. An enquiry into the circumstances revealed the fact that the house was owned by the man who occupied it as proprietor. The conditions were undoubtedly those of neglect of the children and the result would have been the development of criminals of a very low type, as the children were of both sexes and were crowded together in one small sleeping bunk. The girls who had an earning capacity were employed in the poorest class of employment and were allowed to run the streets until late hours. The inevitable result was that one of the girls got into trouble and the case thereby came to the attention of this Department.

A similar condition of affairs exists in many places where it is impossible to locate it and as long as cheap rooming houses are allowed to exist without regulations laid down by law, and without the enforcement of sanitary conditions, and rules governing the number of individuals who shall live in a room of a certain size, it will be impossible to accomplish anything in the way of reformation.

Wife and Child Desertion

A large number of cases of neglect are traced to wife and child desertion. During the past year some fifty cases of this kind



Bedroom, cheap rooming house. Two beds occupied by six people.
Room 8x8 feet.



Dining room cheap boarding house. Thirty-two boarders and nine children in house.

have come to the notice of this Department, and while it has been possible to have warrants sworn out for the arrest of a few absconding fathers and husbands, in the majority of cases it is impossible to get information complete enough to have a warrant sworn out, and in the event of the case coming to trial and the man being sentenced to a term in gaol, the effect does not seem to be much better than if the man were allowed to go free, as the problem of sustenance still remains upon the shoulders of the mother, and sooner or later reverts back to this Department to be settled by having the children cared for in foster homes.



It is hardly fair to such mothers to demand the surrender of their children but this is the only course open at the present time.

The crime of wife and child desertion would not be as frequent a complaint by helpless women were it possible to introduce an Act whereby absconding fathers could be brought back from the United States or from other provinces and put to work on a Government farm, equipped with some sort of manufacturing plant. The products of such plant could be sold, and the prisoner's earnings be handed over to some officer appointed for the work, to be dispensed in the interest of the prisoner's family. Under such a system wives and families might be protected and held together.

In the majority of cases which have come to the notice of this Department in the past four years it is particularly noticeable that the absconding husband and father is, as a general rule, a man of lazy and unfixed habits, an intermittent worker, employed in one of the non-skilled trades.



Bad housing conditions. Conducive to petty crime.

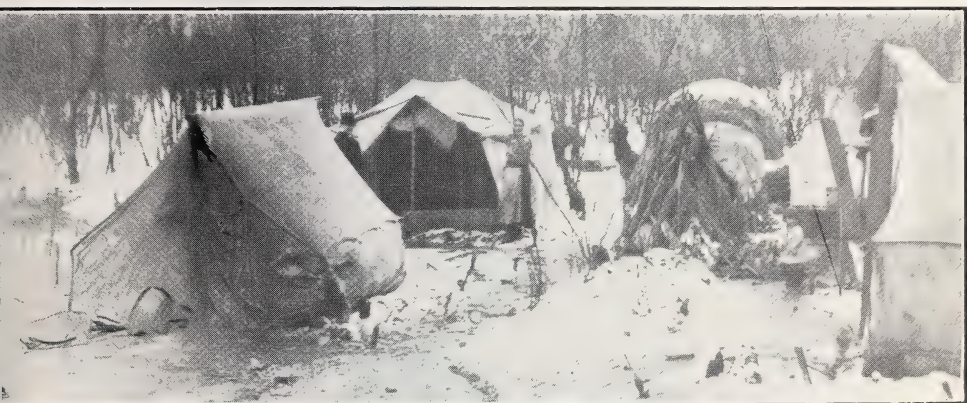
Widows and Children

Another group which comes into prominence is that represented by the children of women whose husbands have died and left their widows to take care of a struggling family. This group offers the same problem as the former one in the matter of transferring the children from the mothers' care and placing them in foster homes. Many of these women are of a high moral type and with a little assistance could keep their children, and the children would naturally take care of their mothers when incapacitated by sickness or old age. As it is widowed mothers who attempt to hold their families together have to leave the children alone during the day-time for purposes of earning enough to keep them, with the result that the children soon become precocious and street wise. This group unless taken care of soon drift into the ranks of the delinquent and the juvenile criminal.

Were it possible to enact legislation whereby the earning capacities of such mothers could be supplemented until such time as their children become productive elements in the community, the home could be held together that is now broken up.

The cost of working this scheme would not be so large as might appear on the surface, as in many instances the responsibility of the care of the old and worn-out woman will resolve itself upon the community in which she has lived, and institutions will have to be provided for the care of old people who would have been cared for during old age by their children, had it been possible to hold the family together.

The State of New Jersey has recently brought in legislation to supplement the earning capacities of widows and deserted wives, thereby making it possible to hold the family together. The money advanced is held as a debt over the children and is expected to be returned to the State without interest as the children arrive at the age of an earning capacity. The law has not been in force long enough yet to know the percentage of returns made but it can hardly be expected that there will be much money returned from this source for some considerable period, as a family will take a long time to repay a debt such as would be accumulated in the event of there being four or five children of a non-earning capacity to be provided for at the inception of such scheme.



The home of the Neglected Child.

THE PROBLEM OF THE FOREIGN BORN

A prolific source of difficulty throughout Canada with all Departments that are endeavouring to deal with the problem of neglected children is produced by the non-English-speaking portion of the community. These people come to Canada with the idea of bettering their conditions, and in many instances, with the idea of giving their children a chance. Statistics gathered from the latest available information from the Department of Immigration show that the ratio of foreign born non-English-speaking people in the Dominion of Canada is one to ten of the French and English-speaking population.

The Absorption of the Foreign-Born

This places upon Canada generally, and upon Western Canada particularly, an enormous weight of responsibility as the absorption of this class into Canadian citizenship is a task which is stupendous. The United States at no time in its history has had to face a problem of the absorption of the foreign-born element in a larger ratio than one to thirty. It can therefore be readily understood that the absorption of these people is much slower in Canada than it has been at any period in the history of the United States. In addition to this a great many of the foreign-born element settle on the farms and homesteads of Canada, thereby doing a great pioneer work, but the trouble is that they invariably settle in colonies such as Bukowinians, Dalmatians, Poles, Galicians, etc., and thus reproduce to some degree the conditions which exist in their own lands.



It can be readily understood that under these conditions English as a language, becomes the language of the people by a very slow process. The children of the foreign-born who come in contact with other English speaking children, either at school or during play hours, learn to speak the language much sooner than their parents. In some cases the parents are proud of this accomplishment and depend upon their children in business matters and in matters of adjustment between them and their English-speaking neighbours. This is dangerous in many ways as the children often take advantage of the ignorance of their parents, and are able to devise schemes under the eyes of their parents without the parents becoming cognizant of the trend of things, or understanding what is going on.

The Danger of the City

In the cities the dangers in this particular line are not as great as in the country. The city, however, offers an opportunity to children of foreign-born parents which is not offered in country places, inasmuch as the street life is open to them, and it is possible for them, through their knowledge of the language, to indulge in many habits and actions which are incomprehensible to their parents, owing to the fact that they come from country districts in their old land and do not understand city ways, and may regard the actions of the children, who are exposing themselves to the worst of the street environment, as the natural actions under city life.

The work of the Ruthenian Girls' Home in Edmonton cannot be too highly commended in connection with this particular problem. That institution is dealing with foreign-born girls from the class who work as domestics, in restaurants, cafes, etc., and



A group of Alberta home-seekers.

is doing much under the superintendency of Miss Jennie Robinson to meet the problem as far as Edmonton is concerned, but it is impossible for one denominational institution to effect any permanent improvement without the co-operation of all classes and all religious denominations.

A glance through the statistical report appended to this general report is sufficient to satisfy those who wish to study the problem, that this particular element is a problem in the community, and in spite of their desire to be absorbed as quickly as possible, and in spite of their desire to see their children turn out high-grade citizens, the menace is here and has to be confronted in a sane way.

Some of the finest citizens which have been produced in Canada are the immigrants, and children of immigrants, from the old countries, and these people are doing their best to raise the general standard amongst the people of their own races, in order that the particular nationality which they represent, may stand out pre-eminently in the next generation as good citizens.

THE PROBLEM OF THE BOY

The problem of the boy starts with infancy and never ends. There is a time in every boy's life when he desires to break the bounds set down by the school and the home and to seek the larger life of the street and the gang. This is a natural instinct and offers great possibilities of both danger and help. The problem will never be solved and the need will have to be met until life itself is extinct and until there are no more boys to offer peculiar problems.

The Adolescent Period

Perhaps the most dangerous period of boy life is that period which is known to educationalists as the period bordering on, and adolescence, that is the years from ten to eighteen. The history of delinquency among boys shows that more crimes are committed between these ages than at all other times in the history of the average individual. More impulses are present and followed, and the boy is subject to more dangers during this period than possibly all the rest of his life put together. The physical activity which was present in earlier childhood is continued in this period and with it is a mental activity and a desire to know. The self-assertive time is here and the boy chafes under discipline or authority. He is desirous of showing his manhood by his independence of those older than himself and may take some very peculiar ways of demonstrating that he is a man, and capable of looking after himself without the interference of grown-ups.



The problem of the boy is so closely allied with sex awakening and his physical and mental development that these cannot be separated and have to be dealt with practically as one unit. Physical and mental restlessness are usually evident in the boy

of this age. Dr. Guilick declares the boy of this age "to be a sceptic and a partisan at the same time." The average boy has a feeling that there is something about himself that must be settled. No emotion is too deep, no song too gay for him to participate in. He is explosive and submissive, varying in turn with a speed that is most ominous to those who are not familiar with boy life and the drift of boy thought.

Boy Ideals

Boy ideals are always immediate. They are desirous of bringing cause and effect into the closest relationship. Consequently we find the boys of this age patronising the melo-dramatic play house, find him visiting the picture shows in which blood curdling forays by outlaws and bandits are the general form of film. These things appeal to his imagination, not so much because of their blood curdling nature, but because he can see the hero get his reward and the villain his deserts in the shortest possible time.



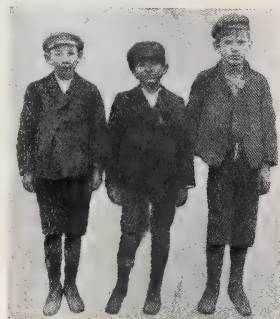
A Man of Tomorrow.

The crimes of the boy at this age are usually those of impulse. It is the most emotional and susceptible period of boy life and consequently should be the most guarded. The experience of boys' clubs generally is that boys between the ages of twelve and sixteen have the habit of forming themselves into natural groups for a definite object and dissolving more rapidly than at any time in their history as either men or boys.

There is a desire to start something but the effort to keep the work continued along the lines of interest is a trying one and means constant repetition by those in charge of the boys.

The Province of Alberta has not yet succeeded in establishing the playgrounds, gymnasias, and boys' clubs that are absolutely necessary to the development of a high-grade citizenship. With the growth of cities these institutions must be established to take care of the boy who finds his amusements and companionships outside of the sphere of influence of his own home.

Legislation controlling the age of boys entering pool-rooms was introduced in 1910 and while this legislation is of untold value, it does not provide the boy with anything else to take the place of the amusement he has been deprived of, consequently he drifts into the boy gang, and the boy gang without a



proper leader is the most dangerous element that can be fostered in any community.

The Work of Boys' Clubs

The work of such organizations as the Y.M.C.A., the Knights of Columbus, and other like organizations cannot be too highly commended. These organizations, however, do not sufficiently emphasize the importance of dealing with the boy between the ages of ten and eighteen. It is impossible to accomplish much work with this group of boys unless the work extends to the place where it touches the home, and all club effort is liable to fail unless the effort is directed in such way as to centre the general interest of the family upon the success of the boy, not only in the general plan of the boy's work in the club, but in the general plan of the boy's ideas of citizenship.

It is during this period that the serious doubt enters the mind of many parents as to whether their boy is a fool or is merely trying to show off, and it is during this period that the boy offers the most serious problem to the policing of a city.

Crime Among Boys

Destruction of property, petty thefts, and in some cases crimes of a serious nature, are perpetrated, largely in a spirit of fun. Dr. Leonard, of Mansfield Reformatory, probably the greatest authority on the Continent on the problem of the delinquent youth between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five years, states that practically all of the inmates of the Mansfield Reformatory have acquired the habits which led to their incarceration in that Institution before their sixteenth birthday and that the gang has usually been the place where the desire for fun has gradually been replaced by petty crimes and later, crimes of a serious nature.

The statistical report of the nature of offences committed by boys in Alberta reveals the fact that in the majority of cases, mischief has been the big feature in the perpetration of the various crimes with which the boys have been charged, and that the years between twelve and fifteen are the most trying for both boys and officers.



THE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

Up to the present time it has not been advisable to introduce an Industrial School in Alberta, owing to the existence of the arrangement with the Province of Manitoba for the care of juvenile offenders. Alberta has now reached the time in its history when an Industrial School of the "Cottage" type should be installed for the care and training of the large number of delinquent boys whom it is inadvisable to place in foster homes. It is generally conceded by those who have given the matter the most thought, and by the most expert penologists, that it is very seldom necessary to commit a boy under fourteen years of age to an Industrial School, as the boy of this age can be better handled in a home where he is under the right environment.

Types of Industrial Schools

Industrial Schools generally are classed as "Congregate" types and "Cottage" types.

Congregate Type

The "Congregate" type of institution is gradually being abandoned and the "Cottage" type is taking its place. The disadvantages of the congregate type of institution are many. Among the most objectionable of these is that of being compelled to herd boys of all ages and conditions in one group. The moral and physical effect of this herding is regarded as disastrous to the successful working out of the problem of reformation, or more properly, the formation of the characters of the children entrusted to the Institution.

It must be remembered that children committed to Industrial Schools have, as a general rule, been permitted to grow up without much, if any, home training, consequently the object of the Industrial School should be to provide that which the home of the child has failed in.

The Cottage System

Under the "Cottage" system the children are classified according to their age, physical and mental make-up, and are divided into groups which are known as Cottage Groups, consisting of from ten to forty children in each cottage, according to the accommodation and the total number of children to be handled. Professor Briggs of New York State estimates that no cottage should contain more than twenty-five children. Colonel C. B. Adams of the Illinois State School for Boys maintains that forty children is not too large a group to be successfully handled by a cottage father and mother.

Success of Industrial School Methods

The important elements in the make-up of any successful institution are the disposition and qualifications of the Superintendent and his associates. It is generally conceded that all successful Industrial Schools use more or less of a semi-military system in dealing with the boys, in order that they may gather more readily, ideas of discipline and order than is possible under the general system of the so-called "home life" institution. All Industrial Schools aim at the correction of crime by a system of discipline, supervision, play, and a general atmosphere of good will.

The success of Industrial Schools is sometimes questioned; it is generally regarded, however, that from forty per cent. to sixty per cent. of the boys going through the Industrial Schools are reclaimed to good citizenship. It is impossible, however, to form any estimate from the available statistics as to what percentage of boys who have graduated from Industrial Schools will later enter lives of crime and eventually join that group of hopeless criminals, known to penologists as recidivists. It has been found that boys who come from very poor homes and are returned to these homes, become dissatisfied sooner or later, as in the Industrial School they have grown used to order, industry, cleanliness, and care, and the slovenly atmosphere of the poor home soon palls upon them and they naturally drift to the street in order to avoid their unpleasant home life.

With the introduction of an Industrial School in this Province it would be advisable to purchase a large tract of land, not less than two sections, and develop an Institution on the Cottage system, possibly starting with the Administration Building which should take care of the first group of boys, and add cottages from time to time as they are needed. From the inception of this work it should be the policy to instal not only the best stock



A group at the Lethbridge Shelter.

but the best equipment it is possible to procure for the manufacture of articles for the use of the inmates and staff of the school, such as clothing, harness, etc.

Such an institution will be an expensive plant to instal, and a more or less expensive plant to keep up. From the viewpoint of money the present arrangement is the best one, but from the viewpoint of success in dealing with the child, Alberta is about ready to instal its own Industrial School, to take care of the boy who is too hardened a delinquent to be placed on probation or in a foster home.

FOSTER HOMES

Foster homes are required for a large number of children during the year.

Easy to Place Children

These homes are easier to find than is generally supposed. During the past year some four hundred and fifty-two applications have been received for children, varying in ages from one week to seventeen years. The applications have not all been satisfactory. Something over forty per cent. of them have been turned down after investigation as unsatisfactory for some reason or other. In the majority of cases where applications were turned



Child in a good foster home.

down it was because of some serious home defect, such as one of the parents being a drunkard, having a violent temper, or for immoral tendencies. In the case of children over twelve years of age a good many applications have been turned down for the reason that investigation has elicited the fact that the children are required in the capacity of general servants without pay.

It is comparatively easy to find foster homes for children under seven and over twelve years of age. In the first instance people want children to adopt as their own and are actuated by their love of children; in the second instance great care has to be used as the individual applying for a child is often desirous of securing the services of some boy or girl in the capacity of chore boy or domestic without wages.

Interests of Children Guarded

Where children have an earning capacity their interests are guarded by insisting upon foster parents paying the wages agreed upon, either into the Department where the money is banked in trust for the children, or into the nearest postoffice, and receipts of deposit are required to be sent to the Superintendent.

Applications Investigated

All applicants must back up their first application with at least three references from reliable people. If the references are satisfactory a child is sent on trial and at the end of thirty days if the child proves suitable, an agreement is entered into in which the foster parents contract to send the child to school, and that it shall be treated as a member of the family, shall receive religious training, shall be furnished with clothing, washing, etc., and that they will provide for it in case of sickness, until the child is eighteen years of age.

Children Inspected



After a child has been placed in a foster home it is regularly inspected at least twice a year, and school teachers' reports are required from time to time, in order that the Department may be satisfied that the child is receiving fair treatment in the home.

During the past year Inspectors of the Department have covered about twenty thousand miles by rail and three thousand miles by trail.

There is always a time in the history of every case when it is wise to relax and suspend supervision. This desirable end is

reached when the child has been absorbed into the family as a member of it in every respect. Care must be used by Inspectors in order that the foster parents may not be offended, as an over officious Inspector, by an indiscreet visitation of a home, can do more damage than can be ever undone. For this reason it is absolutely necessary to have men of sound sense and men with a knowledge of human nature in this very important end of the work. Against this there is the danger of releasing the home from supervision a little too soon. Every care is taken to be sure that the home is ready for release before this action is taken. It has been found that the careful selection of homes at the start has led to very little difficulty along this line.

The greatest care of the Department is in the initial report of the home. It should be possible, however, to have an Inspector visit the home of every applicant before a child is placed, and make a full report to the Superintendent, of the conditions exactly as he sees them. It has been found from experience that where

medical men have agreed to bring in a report on a home that the report is fuller and more comprehensive than the report of any other class of people, as these men are used to sizing up families and will usually give frank information as to the character and ability of the applicants.



Anxiously looking for homes.

The Abuse of the Placing of Children

The system used in Alberta is known as the "placing out" system and has been in use in various countries for the last forty years. There are many dangers attached to this system which have to be guarded against continually.

These can only be guarded against by proper supervision and inspection of foster homes, and by a very careful scrutiny of not only the financial condition, but also the moral make-up of the applicants.

Some organizations have sent children to Canada in groups of from forty to one hundred. These children have been peddled out to any who would take them, without proper investigation of the home conditions or any follow-up system. The result has been disastrous for the children and is showing itself in popular feeling against the system as it has been abused. The right place for every child is with a good man and woman who will act in the capacity of father and mother to the child and see that it has the opportunity to become a good citizen. It is the supreme object of the Department of Neglected Children to give every child a fighting chance, and if a child is not happy in a foster home, that constitutes sufficient reason for its removal, without other ground of complaint.

The Percentage of Success

The percentage of success that has been met with in Alberta has been large. That does not mean in any way that children do

not have to be taken from homes in which they have been placed. Many children find it impossible to make good with certain types of individuals, consequently it has been necessary to re-handle about ten per cent. of the children dealt with. In one case a little girl of eight years of age was tried in seven different homes before she proved successful. In all of the six homes she was reported as unsatisfactory, being sullen, bad tempered, and defiant. The seventh home happened to be the peculiar home which fitted the little girl and her foster parents report that she is happy and contented, and that they are very proud of their little girl.



The successful foster home.



Proposed Shelter Building at Calgary. Estimated cost about \$85,000.00



CHILDREN'S SHELTERS

During the past year the City of Edmonton built and equipped possibly the most modern Children's Shelter in Canada, and one of the best on the American Continent. This institution was erected by the municipality at a cost of some sixty thousand dollars. It is situated on half a block of land and is planned to meet every need of the child from the time that it is received as a neglected child until it is discharged to a foster home.

The basement contains storage rooms, refrigerator plant, laundry, Sloyd room, lavatories for boys and girls, a large hallway, and ventilating system.

The main floor contains the operating room, infirmary, receiving room, office, combined play and school room, children's dining room, staff dining room, pantry, and large kitchen.

The second floor contains the girls' dormitory, girls' wash room and lavatory, sewing room, infants' diet room, bathroom, infants' dormitory, matron's bedroom, and lavatory.

The top floor contains boys' dormitory, sleeping accommodation for the help, bath room, and three detention rooms for boys and three for girls, linen closets and store room. The Institution is equipped throughout with the finest equipment procurable.

Calgary at the present time is using the old Maternity Hospital as a Children's Shelter building. This building, however, is in-



Infants' Dormitory, Children's Shelter, Edmonton.



Children's Dining Room, Edmonton Shelter.

adequate and is situated within thirty feet of the Isolation Hospital.

The city, however, is planning to put up a Shelter which will cost approximately \$85,000.00, which, of course, will give that city possibly the finest Institution on the American Continent when the building is completed.



Girls' Dormitory, Edmonton Shelter.

The City of Lethbridge has a small but complete Institution. This Institution is unfortunately also poorly placed and it is the intention of the city authorities to change the location at the earliest possible date.

Medicine Hat is required to provide and equip an Institution this year under the provisions of the "Children's Protection Act."

In municipalities in which Children's Shelters are erected, the cities are compelled by law to provide and maintain such Institutions out of municipal funds. Children from outside points, however, are boarded in these various Institutions, the Government assuming charge of any case coming from country districts, or small towns and villages, collecting expenses from municipalities as provided for by law.



Sun Parlor, Infants' Dormitory.



Children's Shelter at Edmonton.

THE PROBLEM OF THE GIRL

In the report which was submitted to the Government last year it was particularly requested that a woman probation officer be appointed by the Province, whose duty it should be to rouse up interest through the Province in the problem of the girl, and to see to the providing of counter-acting influences to those which are so surely besetting the lives of girls in the Province. Alberta is to be congratulated on securing Miss Mary Yeomans, a woman of broad experience in this line, and the work which she has accomplished since starting on her duties has more than paid for itself in cutting off the stream of delinquent girls who were continually coming to the notice of the Department.

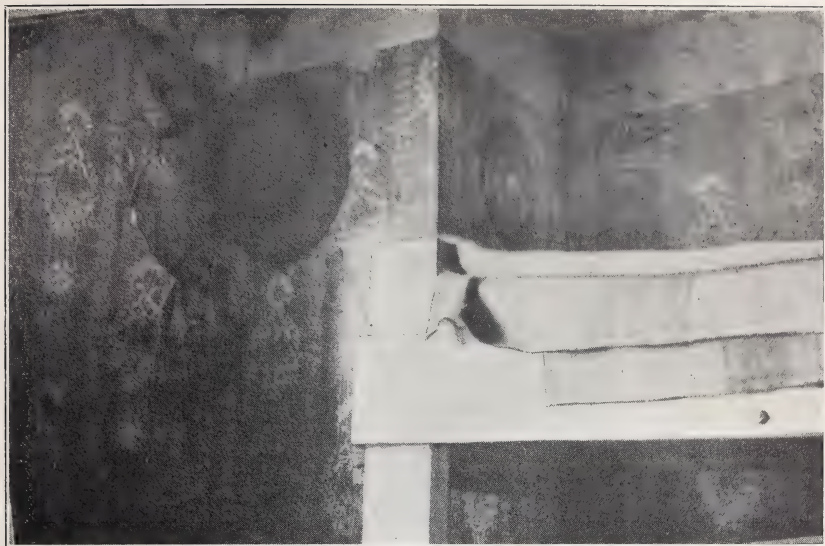


The Girl who Works

Modern business conditions give employment to an army of young girls and girls verging on womanhood. The majority of these girls are recruited from the homes of hard-working people, and in many cases from the small towns and country districts.

Girls who are employed during the daytime and have their homes to go to as a general rule are under proper supervision and

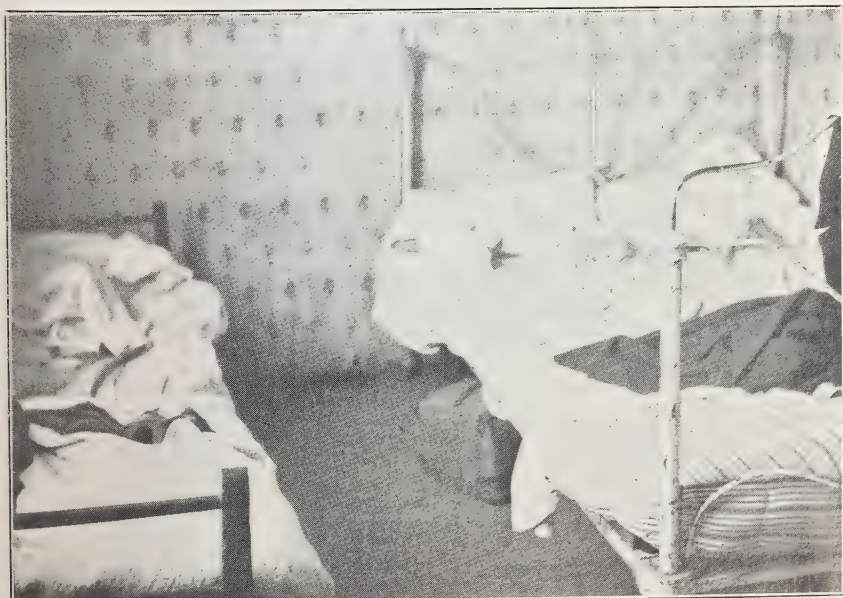
well cared for, unless they are unfortunate enough to belong to the class of people who are careless and ignorant, and whose homes are so unattractive that the girl turns to the street for amusement and pleasure. Unfortunately, the girl who comes from the small town or country district with the idea of making her living finds it almost impossible to form companions among the same class of people from which she comes, and unless she happens to be a girl of strong fibre she sooner or later drift into circumstances which result in her becoming careless and lax about herself.



Bunk system in cheap rooming house. Fourteen people in one small room.

Girls Contribute to Up-Keep of Homes

The amount of money which a girl of this class can make is small. In many cases the girl is expected to contribute some part of her earnings to the up-keep of the family of her parents. The result is that she either herds with other girls in unsanitary conditions or finds a room in a cheap lodging house where she is exposed in nearly every case to an atmosphere of immorality and vice. This class of girl as a rule works in the poorer type of



Room occupied by family of nine.

restaurant and cafe. Were it possible to make these girls realize the advantage of domestic service in preference to the business life they would be the gainers. Unfortunately the average girl refuses to recognize domestic service, preferring to work as a waitress or a dish washer, at from eight to ten dollars a week and have her evenings free to spend as she may wish.

In many of the hotels and restaurants efforts are made to make the female employees happy and comfortable. Unfortunately in other cases the conditions are absolutely vile and the girls are exposed in a manner which cannot but lead to an immoral life. One instance of many may be cited here to illustrate this particular point. A girl of fourteen and a half was taken from a Chinese restaurant. The Inspector in this case found the girl sleeping in the same room with six men. No privacy had been afforded the girl, and she was required by her parents to send



The rear of a cheap restaurant.

twenty dollars per month home. The employer in this case was paying the girl thirty dollars per month and providing her with board and bed. On investigation of her home conditions it was found that the girl was from a country home where petty crime and immorality were more or less common. She had to look to the street for her amusement and her associates were picked from the lowest type of women. The very nature of the girl's work prohibited her from having the right sort of companions.

Crime Among Girls

Jane Adams, of Chicago, states that ninety-eight per cent. of all girls' crimes are sex crimes. In Alberta it has been found that this percentage may be slightly exaggerated, but the fact that the girl does not have to steal in order to enter a life of crime is as evident in this Province as in other places. The more urban life becomes the more complex this problem will be.

The girl from the home of careless people who are in a position to provide her with every comfort and amusement, is a serious

problem, in as much as she is frequently allowed to roam the streets at late hours without proper supervision or chaperonage. These little girls think it smart to be spoken to by young men, and thereby expose themselves unwittingly to conditions that lead to the midnight supper, the "joy ride", and later to the girl's downfall. In this connection two of the worst features that are to be contended with are the "joy riders" who give little girls automobile rides with the one idea of accomplishing their ruin, and the individual who, through the guise of friendliness, attracts the girl, amuses her, possibly gains her confidence, and later accomplishes her downfall through the medium of the restaurant with the private room where it is possible to have liquor served. This problem is particularly evident in the cities of the Province.

The City of Edmonton recently appointed a woman probation officer to deal with this particular kind of girl, and her report shows that she has dealt with one hundred and fifty girls of the type referred to.

With the introduction of the Dominion Delinquents Act it will be possible to fine and imprison those who contribute to the delinquency of girls, or who entice them to lead them astray.

The City of Calgary has also appointed a woman probation officer, and her report indicates the same activity in the City of Calgary as in Edmonton.

The Girl From the Small Town

During the past four years the smaller towns have contributed a great number of young girls to the delinquent class. The town of five or six thousand population confronts a peculiar problem as it has all the disadvantages of the immoral side of life of the city, and the people who are used to knowing each other do not consider it necessary to as carefully guard their girls as do the people of the larger city, who recognize the dangers to which their daughters are exposed if allowed to run the streets at night.



Industrial School Girls

The Sisters of the Home of the Refuge of the Good Shepherd in Edmonton, a branch of the mother Society of Pittsburg, have built up an Industrial School for girls at Edmonton, and

at the present time are taking care of some twenty girls who have been committed to their Institution. In every case these girls have been committed when it is too late to prevent them from entering into lives of prostitution, and when they are under seventeen the proportion of reclamations is held by the Sisters to be about twenty per cent. This organization is held to be the most successful on the American Continent today, their work in Pittsburg being recognized as pre-eminently the leading work of this nature on the Continent. Their methods are based on common sense, and the excellent work which they have done since coming to Alberta cannot be too highly commended.

The combined boards of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches have set aside a fund to build an institution some place

in the Western Provinces, and are endeavouring to complete arrangements with the different Governments for the reception of girls needing institutional care. This would deal more particularly with the Protestant girls.

The greatest value of work, however, lies not in cure, but in prevention. It has been found by bitter experience that the percentage of cures among immoral girls is small, whereas the percentage of girls who are taken charge of as they are bordering on lives of vice, and set on the way toward honest endeavour is something like ninety-five per cent.

Both cities and towns should be awakened to their responsibility to the girl who is allowed to run wild on the streets.

The Home Responsibility

The solution of this problem lies in the home and no amount of legislation can do very much to solve it without the co-operation of the home. The legal responsibility once placed on the parents should be enforced, and parents who allow their girls to wander on the streets without adequate protection should be made to pay heavy fines or be imprisoned.

Amusements

A prolific source of difficulty is the cheap dance hall which has been opened up in many cities of the Province. Here girls of tender years are allowed to gather and dance with the most questionable persons. In many instances on the same floor with the girls is to be found the prostitute who is well known to the police.

With more adequate supervision of dance halls it is to be hoped that the results will not be as disastrous as they have been in the past. Up to the present time we have usually said "don't" to the girl as far as her amusements are concerned and have not provided her with anything else to do. The girl is a parallel to the boy in the matter of having to be employed at something which absorbs her attention. The average young girl will find the time and place to dance and amuse herself. If this is not provided by the best people in the community it will be provided by those who are actuated by a desire for monetary gain and use amusement for this purpose.

A Suggestion

The broader use of the school plant and the extension of this work to include physical culture, gymnastics, and dancing clubs; in the evenings popular lectures to which both parents and children are invited, and properly supervised playgrounds, will to a great extent relieve the situation of the girl problem.

Young girls who should be thinking of romping and playing with dolls are frequently seen on the streets prepared to make eyes at any young man who will respond, and to take any chance of moral ruin. This in many cases under the direct eyes of their parents.

The special work of dealing with girls must be handled by women who are experts in their work, and if the needs of the Province are met with next year, women Probation Officers will be appointed in all municipalities having a population of over five thousand. A woman Probation Officer can alone deal with the girl problem, and in many cases she can successfully deal with the boy problem when the boy is under twelve years of age.

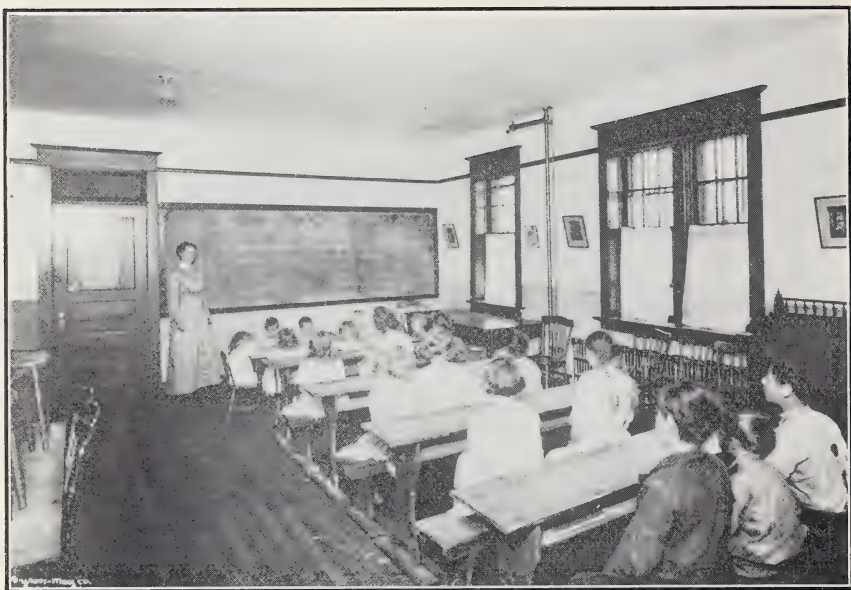
THE MENTAL DEFECTIVE

The most dangerous element in any community is the mental defective, not because of the actual amount of damage which he may do in the way of destruction of property, but because he goes on reproducing his kind, generation after generation, and usually lives to a ripe old age, a prolific source of trouble and danger to the community. In many cases he is merely described as "queer", shiftless, or a helpless sort of soul. His children after him seem to inherit the same traits of character, and find themselves propelled through life by the efforts of other people. This unfortunate class is a drag on humanity.

The proportion of defectives to the population is of course unknown, but it is large enough to have been given the most serious thought and consideration by psychologists the world over. Dr. Goddard of Vineland, New Jersey, probably the leading psychologist on the American Continent makes the statement that at least sixty per cent. of all children confined in Industrial Schools, and adults confined in gaols are mental defectives, and that if they were not defective they would not be in these places. The State Board of Charities of Illinois states that the organization for the placing out of children is taking care of the normal child, but that the mental defective is taken care of in the Industrial Schools, and that the Industrial Schools are becoming institutions for the care of defective children.

Possibly one of the greatest of menaces which the girls of this class particularly present can be best illustrated by the case of a woman who lives some miles out of one of the small towns of Alberta. This woman, twenty-four years of age, is a most decided mental defective, possibly a semi-imbecile, and is the mother of four illegitimate children. When the case was reported first it was found that she had been living with a man for a year and a half, that any work which had been accomplished on the homestead had been done by the woman, that men of all kinds had been taken to the home, and that in all probability the man who lived with her had secured money through the prostitution of the woman. The children are mental defectives of a very low





The Shelter Schoolroom.

order, all girls, and brought up in an absolutely immoral atmosphere. When taken charge of, the physician at the Shelter to which they were taken reported that they were all suffering from hereditary congenital disease. Two of the children show pronounced signs of Hutchinson teeth and one child has gone totally blind owing to *ophthalmia neonatorum*. The children in



The correction of physical defects, Edmonton Shelter.

this case will be a cost to the community as long as they live. It will be impossible to have them reabsorbed into Society as foster children, as no one wants them. If they are ever taught to be producers it will only be by the most expert treatment, and it will never be possible to teach them the principles of morality as they have not the brain power to understand the situation and if allowed to go into society would soon become the victims of any man who is desirous of linking himself with them.

The Moron

Possibly the most serious type is that known as the Moron, the highest type of mental defective known to Science, those whose condition can only be recognized after very careful study, and in many cases by an expert. This group is a menace owing to their persistency in delinquency and immorality, yet they cannot be held responsible for their acts any more than they can be held responsible for their own existence.

At the present time Alberta has to the knowledge of this Department, ninety-five children of defective type needing the protection of an institution. It is impossible to estimate how many there are who belong to the type of Moron, as many of these cases will escape the casual observation of the school teacher or of the officer who deals with any case. In other days this class of child used to be known as suffering from "pure cussedness."

Need of Institution for Defectives

In the majority of cases these children can be made producers and an institution should be established for their care and treatment. Such institution can be made in a short time practically self-supporting, under proper management. At Vineland, New Jersey, the institution for Defective Children turns out beautiful work in the way of manufactured articles of a handicraft nature. Their stock has taken prizes at most country fairs throughout New Jersey, and their garden products are unequalled any place in the State. This Institution has the finest equipped laboratory in the world.



TYPE OF MORON.

Impossible to place in Foster Home.

The Superintendent is a man of broad experience and is in a position to advise as to the construction and advisability of the development of similar institutions throughout the Continent.

Alberta's need should be taken care of immediately as this problem is bound to increase. The question of the mental defective is closely allied with the problem of immigration as a great many of the children who are admitted are mental defectives and manage to escape the scrutiny of the Immigration officers owing to the inadequate tests that are used in determining their mental faculties.

In the report which was submitted last year it was respectfully suggested that an Institution be equipped and maintained in this Province for the care of this unfortunate class; that such institution be in close proximity to the University in order that the medical students might observe the class of work done, in the development of this group from non-productive to productive citizens.

THE ILLEGITIMATES

The percentage of illegitimate children born in Alberta is, as far as record can be obtained, no larger in proportion to the population of the Province than in any other place. That institutions and so-called Maternity Homes take cases at large fees, and that the children are in many cases disposed of without reporting to this Department, is known, but it is most difficult to secure information sufficient to convict upon.

Illegitimate children can be as readily placed in foster homes as can legitimate children, and if the mother is incapable of providing for the child, it should be taken and adopted into a home where it is made welcome.

The unfortunate circumstances in connection with most illegitimate children is the fact that the fathers of these children manage to escape punishment, and in most instances manage to escape paying the expenses which the mother has incurred in her care of the child.

Registration of Illegitimate Births

Were it possible to have an Act brought into force whereby medical men attending cases of illegitimacy would be compelled to fill out forms giving full history of the case attended, and a



Dormitory showing six illegimates, all well placed.

record of these forms kept in the office of this Department, there would be a great deal more satisfaction in dealing with this particular problem.

The unfortunate girls who are the mothers of illegitimate children are in most cases victims of unprincipled men who will run off without facing their responsibilities. In some cases the girl is merely laughed at, and the man refuses to do anything for her.

During the past year some fifty-two cases of this kind have come to the knowledge of the Department, and in only ten has it been possible to compel the man to pay the expenses in connection with the case. The girl has had to pay the bills and, as a rule, surrender her child owing to her inability to properly provide for it. The rule has been established whereby no illegitimate child under three months of age is accepted in a Shelter unless such child is abused or neglected, in which case the mother is prosecuted for criminal neglect of her child.

The most serious side of the question of the illegitimate is the re-absorption into Society of the mother of the child, and the difficulty of securing the information which leads to the tracing up of the case at all.

Of the cases which this Department has dealt with during the past year, at least twenty-five have come in either from the United States or from other provinces, and have immediately returned to their homes after the children were born and taken off their hands. This practice should be discouraged in every way possible, but this discouragement can only be given through the institutions dealing with the question.

Regulations of Maternity Homes

All maternity homes, of either a private or public nature, should be regulated by the Medical Officer of Health, and a full record kept of all cases dealt with.

A copy of such records to be sent to the Superintendent of Neglected Children, in order that the Children might be followed up, and that it might be known that they are placed in good homes.

During the past four years seventeen of these unfortunate children have been taken from homes of the lowest class of foster parents imaginable. These children were all placed, for a consideration, by so-called Maternity Homes, and it is impossible to tell how many children have been carelessly disposed of and allowed to die, through similar circumstances.

The Institutions which are caught disposing of children in this manner should be immediately closed, and the heads of the Institutions prosecuted. There are plenty of good homes in the Province open for this class of child, and the Province needs good citizens so badly, that it is a crime of the worst kind to permit children to get into a low class of home under any circumstances.

TRUANCY

During the past year the Truancy work of the Province has been handled by this Department, and some six hundred cases of Truancy have been dealt with, under the "Truancy Act" of Alberta, in country districts throughout the Province.

It has been found in the majority of cases that matters can be readily adjusted in a district, by picking out one of the most flagrant cases and prosecuting it, in the event of an adjustment being impossible. In most cases it is possible to get matters adjusted without going to the expense of a prosecution.

When the parents of a school district understand that they are required by law to send their children to school, they accept this condition and do their best to comply with the law. In many instances it is found that children are detained at home for purposes of helping, and to add something to the total earning capacity of the family.

The most difficult point to overcome is the fact, that it is possible for a parent to wait five days after a notice is served upon him, before sending a child to school, and after sending him for one day, he can wait five more days before he is guilty of an infraction of the law, under the "Truancy Act."

An Inspector, whose duty it should be to act under the Superintendent of Neglected Children, should be appointed for the Province, to deal with the question of truancy in the country districts of the Province.

The City of Edmonton employs two men to give their full time to the problem of truancy within the City. Their work has proven most beneficial. The City of Calgary has one man employed, who has made an excellent record in his field. Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and Stettler have also appointed men to enforce the "Truancy Act" in the various districts. The result has been an increased attendance at school, and a higher regard for the value of education, on the part of the parents generally.



VEN. ARCHDEACON GRAY
Judge of the First Juvenile Court.

JUVENILE COURTS

Juvenile Courts have been established in the larger centres of population throughout the Province. The excellent work which these institutions are doing cannot be too highly estimated. The Judges of the Juvenile Court are appointed under the "Children's Protection Act" and are known as Commissioners. All cases of juvenile delinquency are taken out of the ordinary police court and are dealt with by these Commissioners.

The work of the Juvenile Courts of Calgary, Lethbridge, and Edmonton, has given the Commissioners in these various centres a considerable amount of work. All Commissioners appointed have been appointed for their special qualifications, and only men who are temperamentally fitted to deal with children are considered.

In Edmonton, two rooms in the Court House have been set aside for the sittings of the Juvenile Court, and at Lethbridge, through the courtesy of the Minister of Public Works, permission has been granted to use the Judges' Chamber for the sittings of the Juvenile Court. Provision, however, should be made for Court Rooms in Calgary and Medicine Hat, as at these two points juvenile cases are frequently up, and should be given separate places of hearing.



Session of Juvenile Court.

SAMPLE LETTERS

The following are a few extracts from letters which have been received by the Department, showing the success which has attended the placing out of children in foster homes:

"I thought it was about time to drop you a line again and let you know how Bobbie is getting along. He is doing fine, keeps in perfect health, and he is growing very fast, both in mind and body. He is a very happy, good-natured boy, and a great lover of fun and sport.

"In the evening he learns his lessons, reads, then practices his music, plays two or three games of checkers with father, and goes to bed about 9 o'clock.

"Enclosed you will find his school report since mid-summer. His marks for December were 83 per cent. He has never missed one Sunday from Sunday school since I last wrote you. He goes willingly to day school and Sunday school. He has a very strong, determined mind. He has a strong dislike for the Home, he will not acknowledge in any way that he belongs to the same. He does not like me sending you his school report, but I have explained it all to him and he understands, so we say just as little as possible about it.

"I would be very thankful if you could give me information concerning an adopted child's claim to property in Alberta. When I married I made my will and seeing I have no children, could Robbie claim the same that I have willed? If not, and I wished Robbie to have some of my property, would it be necessary for me to make another will?"

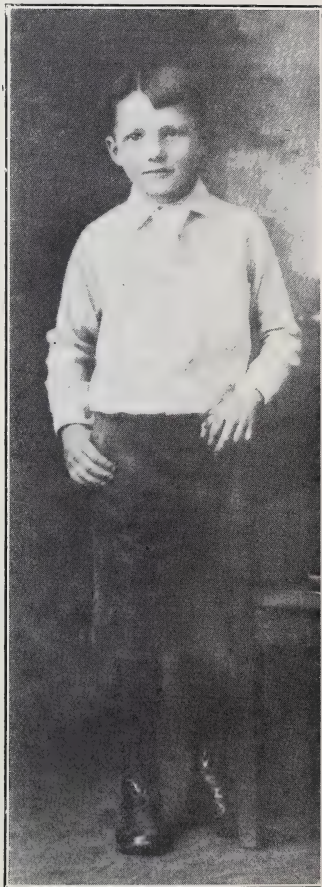
"I have been looking for a letter from you for some time, and I am wondering if you have forgotten that you promised to get the date and ages of my two sons, Arthur and Blythe.

I shall be more than glad to have them, as the school teacher needs them, as it is the rule. I should be glad to know, because when my friends ask me their ages I cannot tell them, as I do not know.

"You will be pleased to know that they are getting along nicely. The younger one is getting so fat that he is nearly as broad as he is long. They are looking forward to going out to the farm next spring, and I believe they will be very happy and contented."

"Your Xmas present received and I thank you for the same.

"The little girl is getting along fine and has now walked for over a



month. We have named her Diana Charlotte. She is a lovely little child and as smart as can be.

"By the way! Will we need more references before we can get a boy? Although I would not want a small child, but if I could chance to get one a little older I would be glad to take it."

"It seems a long time since I wrote to you. We are having some fine weather here; it is just like spring.

"I will be sixteen next month, and I am going to have a party. I wish you could be here.

"We are having a Christmas tree on Christmas eve for the Sunday School, and I am going to play for all the singing. We have some great singers out here.

"I will now close, wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year."



"In compliance with your request of recent date will say, my wife has returned from the States, and I am returning the agreement as per your request and have executed same according to our interpretation of your wishes. Your explanation of the concessions granted to us under the agreement is quite satisfactory, as we have no fear about being able to merit the little one's love and respect. We think we have already done that, as the child never looks at either of us without giving us a sweet little smile. I candidly believe that it is the brightest baby I ever saw and everyone who sees it says the same.

"Mrs. ———— was very fortunate on her trip, as the dear little angel did not take cold and is doing splendidly. We have to feed her on cow's milk or mix some cow's milk with the malted milk.

"In the matter of letting you know our address, and to give you some idea of the provisions made for the baby, I will say I bought a fifteen hundred house, and the papers were fixed up yesterday. Our home is within a few

hundred feet of ————. I have a beautiful home with fifteen rooms and a basement under the entire house, with bath room and every modern convenience. As we bought this home to keep, it will eventually belong to the little child, and by the time she gets possession of it, it will be worth several times the above amount."

"We have had Lillian just one month, and I thought it was time I should let you know how she is getting along.

"We weighed her as soon as we got home and she was only eleven pounds. The first week she was quite sick on account of the change of milk, and I gave her plain boiled water with the milk instead of barley water (I haven't much faith in barley water). After we had her eight

days, I weighed her again and she was twelve and a half pounds. Today we weighed her, and she is fifteen pounds, so she has put on four pounds in one month.

"We have changed her name to Daisy; we like that better than Lillian. She always sits up to the table in her high-chair at meal-times, and I believe it would amuse you if you could see how she can worry a crust. She is very fond of soup, also sago pudding; of course, I don't give her very much of either. After she has had her bath in the morning, I mash a piece of banana and feed it to her. You should see her eyes shine when I come out of the pantry with a banana in my hand.

"My little boy is very fond of her; he calls her girlie, and never tires of picking up her toys when she drops them."

"Our little girl, Nellie, is quite well and most happy and grown quite a big girl. She quite enjoys the farm and the little calves and colts and chickens, and she can always be found with them. She is a great worker; always wants to be helping, and she thinks a lot of her father and mother. I'm sure she is a bright star in our home.

"The snapshot was taken in the house the day she was five years old, February 21st. We will try and get a better one in town some time."

"I am indeed glad to have the pleasure of informing you that our little girl is very well and happy and to all appearances perfectly content. She is as bright as anyone could wish, and has been going to school since September 1st, and is learning rapidly. She is a great favorite of everyone and makes friends wherever she goes. Mrs. ——— and myself are as fond of her as if she were our own child, and we would not part with her for anything on earth. I assure you she has, and ever will have, the best of treatment by us, and will be reared to the very best of our ability."



"I received your letter some time ago, and I took note of the contents.

"You stated that it depended on my own efforts whether I should be released or not. I have done considerably well at my trade, also at school, and by your request, Mr. Wier would be glad to give you my past record, which I am sure would be satisfactory.

"Having received letters from my parents and brother, the latter being in business, wish to give me a position as soon as I return home.

"It would be to my greatest pleasure if you could forward my release, so that I could be home in time to get settled at work before the rush of business which comes at Christmas.

"Kindly obliged me by attending to this favour as soon as possible."

"Many thanks for remembering Jessie at Christmas. The doll was very nice, and she was very pleased with it. She is very happy these days. She got three dolls, a top, and a doll's trunk for Christmas, besides candy and nuts.

"She has only been sick one day since I have had her, and that was one day last summer when the weather was so hot. There is not a photographer in ——— yet, so I have not been able to have her picture taken.

"I expect to send her to school next summer with my neighbors' children. It is five miles, but they have a very quiet horse and will drive.

"Jessie is growing very fast, and her hair is down past her waist. I keep it braided all the time. We have a little calf at the stable, and Jessie is tickled to death when I let her feed it."

"I received the little Teddy Bear O.K. We truly appreciate it very much, as it shows a great deal of interest on your part for the little boy. He can say everything now, and when we told him that Santa Claus sent it through the mail, he said: 'Funny Santa Claus. Why didn't he bring it?' He is very well and is growing quite fast. He is a very attractive little fellow and we are very proud of him; in fact, we could not be more attached to him if he were our own child.

"He is just beginning to tell us what he is going to do when he gets a big boy, and it sounds so cute to us. He thinks there is no one like us. He often hugs and kisses us because 'he loves us so bad.'

"Bless his little soul, we only hope that we can have the pleasure of raising him to be an honourable man and a good citizen, so that he can do a lot of good on this earth, and that he will grow up to be a chaste, benevolent, true man.

"We realize the task you must have in remembering all the little boys and girls under your care, and only trust that you will do your best for all of them.

"We all join in sending you a merry Xmas and a happy New Year."

"I beg to state I received your welcome letter, together with history of our adopted daughter Mary.

"I am pleased to say we are highly delighted with the dear child, and could not love her better if she were our own flesh and blood. She is certainly a ray of light in our home, as she is so bright and happy and full of fun. She is certainly a great companion to my wife and a good playmate to my son. It would be a severe loss to us if we ever lost her, as she makes home like a home, with her innocent, childish ways





and her ready wit. "Always anxious to help her mamma, and a cheerful smile and welcome for me when I come home from work. She is indeed all that is good and all that could be desired. God bless her and may she grow up in the pure spirit she has been blessed with. She is enclosing a letter which she would like to have sent to the Matron at Calgary, and a postcard to one of her playmates in the home.

"Please extend our hearty thanks to Mr. A. D. McDonald, also to Miss Russell, the Matron, and tell them they have certainly sent us a prize that we would not part with for money. I was afraid until I got your letter that the father may want to claim her again after we got to love the dear girl, but am satisfied now that we know the law will support our claim, if such ever should happen."

"Having received your letter of January 13th, I beg to say I noted the contents. I must say, Mr. Chadwick, that my wife and I were in Calgary on Tuesday, and got possession of the little girl, Pauline ——— alright. We first went to a place close to the City Hall in Calgary, then we were directed to the hall to a Mr. A. D. McDonald. We had not then received your letter, and as we got to the office, Mr. McDonald arrived with a letter from you to him, for the release, for which I thank you for all the trouble you have taken.

"I may say, Mr. Chadwick, that both myself and Mrs. ——— are highly pleased with the little girl. We arrived home all safe, but as our train was late in leaving Calgary, we found

it very cold staying around, but we had clothes enough to keep ourselves warm.

"The little girl feels quite at home with our boy. He is seven and she is four, or somewhere near that, the Matron could not tell us her exact age, but says she is four. Children like to know when it is their birthday, so we are sorry we do not know the exact date.

"I must thank you again for your kindness to us, and we hope to keep in touch with you and let you know how the little girl is getting along with us.

"She is quite happy today, but has a little cold, which she might have caught travelling to ———."

"I am writing at this time to advise you that our baby boy is doing very nicely, and is now learning to walk. He has been in good health since we have had him. He was a little sick once, and that was on the 21st of October, but I took him to Dr. ——— at ——— at once leaving baby and Mrs. ——— there until he fully recovered.

"He is a very bright little fellow, and I think he will learn very quickly.

"I might also state that we had him baptized by Rev. ———, and that his name now is ———.

"Trusting that this will be satisfactory."

"Please find enclosed \$1.50 to pay our little girl's fare from Calgary to _____.

"She is a dear little girl, and is so much company for me when Mr. _____ and the hired man are away all day. Mr. _____ is going to _____ this afternoon, on towards _____, and is going to town in the morning. We are hoping to get word that the little boy will be there too.

"After I thought it over, I wasn't much afraid of losing the little girl, for she cannot write but a few words yet, and I did think her friends at the Home would find out where she is."



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Department of Neglected Children begs to acknowledge with thanks the courtesies of the many organizations throughout the Province which have offered help in dealing with the various problems of wayward boys and girls, in the communities wherein these children have lived.

To the many homes who have received as their own children, the homeless and destitute who have become the wards of this Department.

To the Royal North-West Mounted Police in the Province, for their active co-operation and assistance in enforcing the "Children's Protection Act". Without the co-operation of this organization it would be impossible to have accomplished anything like the work which has been done, with the amount of money at the disposal of this Department.

To the various municipal police forces, of the Province, for their co-operation and assistance.

To the Social Service Home at Calgary, the Beulah Mission at Edmonton, the Lacombe Home at Midnapore, the Youville Convent at St. Albert, the Sisters of the Refuge of the Good Shepherd at Edmonton, these various institutions having received the caring for children, whom it would have been impossible to have dealt with outside of institutions.

To the medical men of the Province who have given freely of their time and skill in dealing with cases of sickness, and in remedying defects, among the destitute children, who have come to the notice of this Department.

To the Commissioners who have been appointed under the "Children's Protection Act" to dispose of all cases of juvenile offenders or child neglect which may come before them.

These gentlemen have given their time gratuitously and in every case they are men who have sacrificed time from large business interests to deal with the problem of the child in the community.

Too much praise cannot be given to the Commissioners for their valuable work in connection with the problems of the prevention of crime in the Province of Alberta.

THE NEED.

The needs of the Province at the present time, in its work of child saving, have been outlined in the report under the various sections in which the problems have been dealt with. These needs must be met in a sane way, and dealt with as the financial situation of the Province will admit of the expenditure of the necessary funds, for the providing of the plant and machinery for the care of the various classes of children coming to the notice of this branch of the Department of the Honourable the Attorney General.

Perhaps the most pressing needs are the providing of an institution for the care of defective children, the introduction of the "Dominion Delinquents Act", the providing of an institution for the care of delinquent girls, and, possibly, the development of an Industrial School for the boy offenders of the Province.

OVERLAPPING.

In the matter of dealing with cases of destitution the work of this Department, of a necessity, overlaps that of the Medical Officer of Health of the Province. Friction of any description has been avoided up to this time, owing to the courtesy which has been afforded to this Department by Dr. Laidlaw and his assistants.

Cases of destitution which have been handled by this branch of the Department of Agriculture and cases in which neglect is evident have been reported to this Department and been followed up. These children, of a necessity, have to be dealt with by the two Departments, and it may appear to be overlapping if the matter is given but casual scrutiny.

COMMISSIONERS UNDER THE CHILDREN'S PROTECTION ACT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Francis William Brownlow George.....	Macleod
Thomas Sterlock Belcher.....	Pincher Creek
G. W. Morfitt.....	Calgary
T. A. P. Frost.....	Calgary
John William Costello.....	Calgary
Frederick Davis Shaw.....	Lethbridge
Walter Stewart Galbraith.....	Lethbridge
Henry Gilbert.....	Edmonton
Henry Allen Gray.....	Edmonton
David Milne.....	Medicine Hat
S. S. Hopper.....	Medicine Hat
Thomas Albert Norris	Leduc
J. Wallace.....	Red Deer
F. Fulmer.....	Edson

STATISTICAL REPORTS

DEPENDENTS, 440.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS FROM

Pembina	9	Innisfail	3
Sturgeon	7	Olds	2
Pakan	1	Stettler	8
St. Albert	24	Cochrane	2
Victoria	12	Calgary	134
Lac St. Anne	4	Gleichen	1
Edmonton	111	Medicine Hat	17
Strathcona	24	High River	1
Vegreville	13	Lethbridge	18
Vermilion	4	Pincher Creek	2
Alexandra	12	Macleod	5
Lacombe	2	Cardston	2
Wetaskiwin	3	Didsbury	1
Ponoka	4	Okotoks	1
Camrose	5	Outside Province	4
Red Deer	4		
		Total	440

DEPENDENTS, 232.

PLACED OUT IN ELECTORAL DISTRICTS:

Stony Plain	1	Cochrane	5
Pembina	1	Calgary	15
Sturgeon	3	Gleichen	4
St. Albert	13	Medicine Hat	6
Victoria	4	Claresholm	1
Lac St. Anne	2	Rocky Mountain	1
Edmonton	39	Sedgewick	15
Strathcona	9	Leduc	3
Vegreville	3	Macleod	1
Vermilion	7	Lethbridge	5
Alexandra	16	Pincher Creek	3
Wetaskiwin	6	Cardston	2
Ponoka	6	Didsbury	7
Lacombe	7	Okotoks	1
Camrose	9	Nanton	1
Red Deer	7	Outside Province	12
Innisfail	3		
Olds	5	Total	232
Stettler	9		

DELINQUENTS, 384.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS FROM

Pakan	2	Sedgewick	1
Pembina	3	Cochrane	1
Sturgeon	1	Calgary	132
St. Albert	1	Gleichen	2
Victoria	6	Medicine Hat	7
Stony Plain	2	Lethbridge	21
Edmonton	142	Pincher Creek	2
Strathcona	12	Macleod	9
Vegreville	11	Cardston	1
Vermilion	3	Rocky Mountain	6
Wetaskiwin	6	Outside Province	6
Red Deer	2		
Stettler	5	Total	384

DEPENDENTS.

Sex of Dependents		Unitarian	2
Male	218	Unknown	3
Female	222	Nationality of Dependents	
Number dealt with	440	English	84
Age of Dependents		Scotch	30
Under 1	74	Irish	14
1	25	American	46
2	25	Canadian	115
3	33	German	27
4	29	Half-breed	21
5	31	French-Canadian	22
6	30	Austrian	10
7	27	Russian	19
8	20	Galician	4
9	33	Swede	7
10	24	Norwegian	12
11	22	Bohemian	9
12	16	Greek	1
13	16	Negro	2
14	13	Pole	3
15	15	Hebrew	1
16	12	Walsh	1
Religion of Dependents		Finn	5
Roman Catholic	98	Swiss	1
Church of England	74	Icelander	1
Presbyterian	52	Hungarian	3
Methodist	57	Unknown	2
Reformed Greek	2	Placing of Dependents	
Lutheran	22	Adopted by Foster Parents	232
Baptist	12	Returned to Relatives under	
Salvation Army	14	supervision	141
Ruthenian	1	Placed in R.C. Institution ...	8
Greek Orthodox	6	Placed in Protestant Institu-	
Greek Catholic	11	tion	8
Protestant	68	Ran away	1
Jewish	4	Work obtained for	18
Mormon	12	Apprenticed to Farmers	3
Church of God	1	Died	8
Quaker	1	In Shelter	21

DELINQUENTS.

TOTAL NUMBER, 384.

Sex of Delinquents		Presbyterian	52
Male	289	Methodist	51
Female	95	Congregationalist	2
Ages		Reformed Greek	1
Seven	4	Lutheran	45
Eight	11	Baptist	18
Nine	29	Salvation Army	3
Ten	28	Ruthenian	19
Eleven	24	Greek Orthodox	2
Twelve	64	Greek Catholic	9
Thirteen	51	Moravian	7
Fourteen	52	Jewish	6
Fifteen	55	Mormon	3
Sixteen	52	Protestant	33
Seventeen	14	Placing of Delinquents	
Religion of Delinquents		Returned to Relatives under	
Roman Catholic	83	supervision	118
Church of England	50	Reformatory	39

Foster Homes	14	Hebrew	4
Apprenticed to Farmers	9	Slav	1
Apprenticed to Tradesmen	4	Welsh	2
R. C. Institution	10		
Protestant Institution	12		
Deported	1		
Ran away	9		
Probation	145		
Work obtained for	20		
Still in Shelter	3		

Nationality of Delinquents

English	45
Scotch	18
Irish	10
American	39
Canadian	95
German	55
Half-breed	6
French-Canadian	10
Austrian	8
Russian	18
Galician	39
Swede	3
Norwegian	6
Bohemian	2
Italian	3
Negro	7
Pole	11
Dutch	2

Home Conditions

Bad	79
Good	88
Fair	194
No Home	21
Unknown	2

Subsequent History

Satisfactory	330
Unsatisfactory	47
Unknown	7

Offence

Mischief	29
Theft	194
Burglary	8
Incorrigibility	19
Assault	1
Vagrancy	25
Prostitution	57
Immorality	7
Forgery	4
Discharging Firearms	8
Truancy	31
Violation Tobacco Act	1

SENTENCED TO REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.

Sex

Male	34
Female	5
	39

Age

18	3
17	3
16	10
15	7
14	7
13	3
12	1
11	5
	39

Nationality

Scotch	2
American	8
Russian	3
English	9
Irish	2
Belgian	1
French-Canadian	2
Austrian	2
Galician	1
Canadian	6
Dane	1
Finn	1
German	1
	39

Religion

Presbyterian	4
Protestant	4
Greek Catholic	1
Church of England	8
Methodist	7
Roman Catholic	9
Mormon	1
Lutheran	3
Baptist	1
Salvation Army	1
	39

Offence

Theft	22
Burglary	7
Immorality	5
Incorrigibility	2
Forgery	2
Arson	1
	39

Sentence

One year	4
2 years or under	16
3 years or under	12
Over 3 years	1
Indeterminate	6
Discharged	2
Serving Sentence	36
Escaped	1
Re-sentenced after parole	2

The foregoing statistics deal only with those cases which have passed through the different Shelters in the Province or through the Juvenile or other Courts. They do not include innumerable cases which have been dealt with by the different agents and by the Superintendent daily; cases in which adjustment of conditions was made without recourse to any regular action, or in which advice and other assistance was suggested to correct conditions.

A large number of boys have been warned after slight infraction of city by-laws instead of being brought before a judge, have been given advice and started under friendly influence on a new path.

These cases run into the thousands and keep the different officials busy at all times of the day.

It will be noticed in comparing the statistics for the past twelve months with those of the former two years, that there is a large proportionate increase in the number of Dependents. In the two years, 1910 and 1911, 556 dependents were handled as against 440 for the twelve months of 1912.

In 1910 and 1911, 212 foster homes were obtained for dependents, while in 1912, 232 children were placed in homes for adoption. On the other hand, it will be noticed that there is not the same relative increase in the number of delinquents dealt with as might be expected; the total for 1912 being 384 as against 616 for the two previous years. This is owing to the fact, as before pointed out, that only the most serious offences are brought before the Courts, and where home conditions are satisfactory the offender is merely cautioned and returned to his parents.

In 1910 and 1911, twenty-six boys were sentenced to reformatory institutions for serious crimes coupled with bad environment.

In 1912, it was found necessary to sentence thirty-four males and five females to reformatory institutions.

In a large number of cases home conditions have been improved by the visits of male or female Probation Officers, and children have thus been given a chance to grow up good citizens without the breaking up of the family.

It will be noticed that only thirty-one children were brought before the Courts for Truancy, indicating that in spite of the large amount of irregular and non-attendance among children of school age, the fault does not lie with the children themselves, but with the parents.

EDMONTON, Alta., February 10, 1913.

Mr. R. B. CHADWICK,
Superintendent of Neglected and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alta.

SIR,—The following is a report of inspection work for the year ending October 31st, 1912.

The number of cases investigated and dealt with was 47; whilst the number of visits to the various foster homes was 120. The investigations elicited pretty much the same state of affairs as last year; the various troubles being brought about by desertion, drunkenness, etc. It was also ascertained that sickness and loss of parents were responsible for destitution, whilst laziness could also be said to be the cause in some cases.

In regard to the children housed in foster homes, on the whole, conditions were satisfactory, although in a few cases it was found necessary to recommend the transfer of children from one home to another, with a view to providing better educational opportunities, etc.

To enable complaints to be satisfactorily dealt with, and the various homes to be visited throughout the Province, the following mileage was covered:

By rail	18,398 miles
By Trail	2,778 miles

Total21,176 miles

With the exceptions mentioned, it is pleasing to be able to report favourably on the manner in which the children are being cared for and trained in the homes in which they have been placed.

Respectfully submitted,

A. R. BROOKE,
Inspector.



REPORT OF PROVINCIAL WOMAN PROBATION OFFICER

Keenly alive to the gravity of the situation which confronts us in the rapidly growing population of the new Province, the Government of Alberta, recognizing the special fitness of a woman in dealing with girls, provided for the appointment in the fall of 1912, under the Department of Neglected Children, of a Chief Probation Officer, whose duty it would be to ascertain, as far as possible, existing conditions for girls throughout the Province, to learn the desirability of dangers attending their various employments, and to endeavour to interest the women generally, all over the Province, in lending their active assistance in doing all possible to safeguard young girls, and to inculcate right ideals, to make necessary provision for their recreation, and to raise the standard of our future citizens.

In accordance with the request of the Superintendent, the first undertaking of the Probation Officer was to visit some of the larger centres where work amongst girls has been successfully carried on, and to meet those actively employed, and to get in touch with the most successful methods of dealing with the girl problem.

In Cleveland, owing to the courtesy of the Chief Probation Officer and his assistants, considerable information was gained visiting, what appeared to be one of the most perfect types of a girls' House of Detention, a house having more the semblance of a happy, well-ordered home, than of a corrective Institution.

The girls are taught all forms of domestic service; sewing; millinery, etc., taking into consideration their particular taste or adaptability, and are assisted to select the right thing in which to seek their future maintenance.

In Chicago, Hull House was visited, also the Houses of Detention, School of Civics and Philanthropy and considerable time was spent at the State Industrial School for Girls in Geneva, and a similar one for boys at St. Charles.

These schools stand foremost in their equipment, methods, and good results.

Visits have been paid to the cities and smaller towns in the Province of Alberta, and it has been found that sanitary and moral conditions are not good. Similar conditions probably exist in every Province in the Dominion, but it is necessary in the Province of Alberta, which has taken the lead of all Provinces, in the preventive and protective movement, to take cognizance of these things, and do all possible to rectify existing evils. Even among the larger blocks and stores in both Edmonton and Calgary, sanitary provisions are utterly inadequate; and the absolute necessity of an attendant to regulate these things, in the interest of the health and comfort of the employees, has apparently not occurred to proprietors and owners.

One of the greatest problems in the West is in the matter of housing. Salaries are not commensurate with the high cost of living, and young girls who come to the Province to seek employment, find themselves unable to secure board in proper localities with proper surroundings at a rate within their slender means.

Already rest-rooms with latest periodicals, writing materials, easy chairs, and other conveniences have been provided by some of the churches and Y. W. C. A.'s. In both Edmonton and Calgary, Physical Culture, Fencing, Domestic-Science classes in the evenings, have been formed under capable supervision, in most cases entirely free of cost, for the benefit of the stranger within our midst and the working girls, whose time is too fully occupied, to engage in these activities during the day.

The Local Probation Officers both in Edmonton and Calgary have been most active in looking after the welfare of girls, and inducing them

to take advantage of these classes. These Local Women Probation Officers are of incomparable value, in fact, are an absolute necessity in achieving good results among the girls, and their work is so extensive that the time of even two or three could be fully engaged, in adequately meeting the needs in the larger centres.

In Stettler, and some of the other smaller places, very effective work is being done for girls by the organization of active, energetic Girls' Clubs, having as their aim the achievement of winsome womanhood, with helpful, high, pure ideals.

In both Edmonton and Calgary, active steps have been taken to provide cheaper boarding houses, properly supervised, which will meet both the necessity and convenience of girls obtaining low salaries. Houses which will not only provide the girl with a little room for herself and a parlor in which to entertain her friends, but with laundry and sewing privileges which will enable her to do much for herself, for which she now has to pay, or do without entirely.

It is the endeavour of the Department, by addresses or other available means, to engage the interests and the activities of the women of the Province, to do all possible for their less fortunate sisters.

Where addresses have been given, or visits paid by the Probation Officer, great kindness has been shown by all who are interested in the problem of the girl. In all cases where any appeal has been made, the people have only been too ready to do all that lies in their power to heartily co-operate in any movement which would tend toward the health, happiness, and well-being of our girls.

In connection with the Physical classes, instruction has been cheerfully and voluntarily given without other remuneration than the satisfaction of helping to brighten the lives and improve the physique of those that take the advantage of the instruction.

A Social Guild was formed by a number of young ladies desirous of assisting in the scheme to introduce one social evening a month instead of the regular class. Others have kindly acquiesced in efforts to promote a series of illustrated medical and nature talks to add to the interest and instruction of girls who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity.

To the citizens generally, and to the School-Board, thanks are due for their sympathetic and hearty co-operation. Also to the press, which has so kindly aided in the publications of various notices or articles bearing upon this particular work.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) MARY YEOMANS,
Chief Probation Officer.

MR. R. B. CHADWICK,
Edmonton.

DEAR SIR,—Permit me to submit the following report of work done in the Children's Shelter, Edmonton, during the year ending October, 1912:

Number of Children dealt with during the year	624
Number of Children from outside points	263
Number of Children from the City	361
Number of boys	289
Number of Girls	335
Number of boys from the City	180
Number of girls from the City	170
Number of boys from outside points	109
Number of girls from outside points	165
Number of infants under one year	88
Number of children adopted	56
Number of children released to parents	132
Number of children placed in homes	67
Number of children sent to Reformatory	8
Number of children died	5

Respectfully,

(Signed) GEORGEA BATE,
Matron, Children's Shelter.

In reviewing the work of the Shelter for the year ending October, 1912, we find that 624 children have been dealt with.

Of this number, 263 were from outside points, and 361 from the City. If we classify these according to sex we find 289 boys and 335 girls, that 180 boys and 170 girls were from the City, 109 boys and 165 girls were from outside points. We have handled 88 infants under one year of age, while 56 children of varying ages were adopted. There were five deaths, four infants and a child of four years, all boys.

The question is often asked by visitors to the Shelter, "What does dealing with children in the Shelter mean?" and so for the benefit of any who may be interested we will in reply to that question give a brief outline of our work. Dealing with a child is simply teaching him, educating him out of bad habits, into good ones. Thus is the law of compensation carried out. First of all in the Shelter, the children are taught cleanliness and regard for personal appearance. Every morning at a certain hour the children are formed in line, and a child is chosen (the neatest and cleanest one) to point out any untidiness in dress, unclean hands or fingernails on the part of the others, they are then sent to the dressing room to have these faults corrected, and if old enough are taught to sew on the button, mend the rent in the pinafore or tie the shoe strings, as the case may be. Thus the children receive a lesson in cleanliness, neatness and usefulness. Then they are again formed in line, and told how much nicer they look.

The change in the appearance of these children after a week of this treatment is wonderful, and well worth the time. If a child is disobedient he must be taught to obey, and a child will obey much more readily if asked to do this or that, than if ordered to "go and do so and so." A request appeals to a child's kindness or chivalry.

If a child is untruthful, the meanness and evil of lying is explained to him. Children often own to telling lies, but we have yet to find a child willing to be called a liar.

Stealing is another offence we have largely to deal with in our work. Some children have the stealing habit, nothing is safe from their hands. This is harder to deal with than the lying habit. Now, so far as our work in the Shelter goes toward correcting this habit, we can only appeal to that sense of justice and right, which every child of average intelligence possesses, unless he is old enough to have his ideas of right and wrong distorted by bad example. A girl, who had the stealing habit, said, "I have always taken things, mother never told me that was stealing."

Much is being said about the delinquent child. Is there not also a delinquent parent somewhere? Now destructiveness is another fault we have to deal with, some children seem possessed of it, a smooth surface, or a square corner, offers a most cordial and irresistible invitation to

hack or scratch. Sometimes an appeal to a child's idea of beauty or symmetry will correct this fault, and sometimes nothing short of some form of punishment will avail. Two boys had been taking clothes pins, pulling them apart to get the springs, they were rebuked and admonished several times, but kept on taking the pins. For punishment, each boy was made to wear a clothes pin on his nose for three minutes. This was effectual. The pain and the shame worked the cure.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGEA BATE,
Matron.

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF EDMONTON FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 31, 1912.

R. B. CHADWICK, ESQ.,

*Superintendent of Neglected and Delinquent Children,
of Alberta.*

SIR,

The work of the Children's Aid Society for the period covered by the year ending October 31, 1912, shows a considerable increase over that done during the previous twelve months. The growth is no doubt due to the increased accommodation in the new Children's Shelter Building, and the increased population of the city.

Since the last annual meeting the Shelter Building has been completed. In equipment, capacity and facilities for proper administration of the work connected with child rescue it compares favourably with any similar institution in Canada. The civic authorities directly responsible for these conditions have shown considerable sympathy and generosity in providing for every reasonable want asked for by the Society. The Society has been relieved of every item of maintenance in connection with the home, and is left to merely supervise the regulations governing the care and welfare of the children kept there from time to time.

As a consequence the Society has devoted its energies to other phases of the child welfare question. In response to a strong demand from many parts of the city a Day Nursery was opened on Boyle Street, in the building formerly used as a Nurses' Home. The house was given by the city for the use of the Society free. A matron and an assistant was engaged and the home opened on June 26th, last. This was a phase of the work that had been taken over by the Society at its formation three years ago from the Edmonton Creche Association. The success of this venture will be referred to in another place in this report.

The Society co-operated with the Department of Neglected Children of the Province for a woman Probation Officer for the city, and I am glad to report that a capable and efficient person for that work was appointed by the city council.

Again, the Society co-operated with the Department in procuring the High School for physical drill and an illustrated lecture course on such subjects as care of teeth, first aid to injured, nature study and subjects of general culture.

Children's Shelter

The staff of the Shelter have done excellent work under the direction of Mrs. Bate, the matron. The physical and intellectual welfare of the little wards has been carefully looked after. A member of the public school staff has been detailed for teaching the children in the home. Sunday School exercises are conducted every Sabbath afternoon. The following in a summary of the work done during the period covered in the report:—

Children Dealt with at the Shelter, Edmonton, Nov. 1, 1912.

	1912.	1911.
1. Number admitted	328	1,224
2. Number discharged	296	210
3. Number adopted	80	80
4. Number returned to parents	133	89
5. Number placed out to service	13	..
6. Number sent to convent	10	6
7. Number sent to hospital	8	20
8. Number sent to Ruthenian Mission	5	3
9. Number Delinquents	198	186
10. Number sent to Reformatory	18	...
11. Number returned from foster homes ..	5	...

As will be seen from the number of delinquent cases Mr. Daly, the agent of the Society has had a busy and a useful year. He has been busy every day as his weekly reports to me emphatically show. I can repeat the statement made in this connection last year "he has inspired a respect for law and public opinion", that has a most beneficial effect on young boys and girls disposed to flout the law and their parents admonitions and advice. The greatest number of Juvenile misdemeanors are petty thefts and damage to property.

Day Nursery and Children's Boarding House

As referred to before the day nursery was opened in June. The attendance did not exceed an average of seven per day. The Executive engaged Miss Southall of the United Aids, who is familiar with the city to make a survey and ascertain the number of Children who might patronize the day nursery. Miss Southall did her work very thoroughly covering that part of the city south of Alberta Avenue and east of First Street. She visited about three hundred homes, but found that there were few children who could be taken in the Day Nursery work.

There is, however, a necessity for a children's boarding house in the city. The establishment of such an Institution will be a work for the Society to draw to the attention of the authorities and enlist the sympathy of the public next year.

The work accomplished by the Society thus far justifies its existence and gives us encouragement to go farther. A study of the constitution of the Society will present new fields of activity and continued cause for the Society to keep its energy and machinery unimpaired.

(Signed) JOHN BLUE,
President.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MRS. CORRY, MATRON OF CHILDREN'S SHELTER, LETHBRIDGE.

R. B. CHADWICK, Esq.,
Superintendent Neglected Children,
 Edmonton, Alta.

SIR,—The following is the Annual Report of the children dealt with at the Lethbridge Shelter from January 15th, 1912, to December 31st, 1912:

No. of children admitted	35
No. of children in Shelter	5
No. of children discharged	30
No. of children returned to parents or relatives	16
No. of children sent to Industrial School	1
No. of children sent to foster homes	10
No. of children work obtained for..	1
No. of children married	1
No. of children sent to other institutions	1
No. of children conversions	3
No. of children confirmed Catholic Church	1
No. of children won prizes in Sunday School English Church	2
Babies found homes for without being brought into the Shelter	2
No. of girls outside the Shelter work obtained for	5
No. ran away from Shelter	1
No. of boys outside of Shelter work obtained for	3
Amount paid by Government ..	\$707.03
Amount paid by parents	122.30
Amount paid by City	58.25



JUVENILE COURT

The charges were as follows:

Theft	14
Probation	11
Sent to Industrial School	1
Suspended Sentence	2
Damage to Property	14
(These cases were all settled without being brought into Court.)	
Truancy	7
Neglected Children	20
Children reported as neglected or in any way not properly looked after	9

All these cases were given the most careful consideration.

VISITS

Absentees from school	1040
Charity	53
Clothing and food distributed to 28 families.....	28
Medical Aid	9
Doctor's calls to the Shelter	6

There has been very little sickness in the Shelter in the past year. No deaths.

It is pleasing to report that there have been three girls in the Shelter who have expressed an earnest desire to live better lives. One making the first step toward a better life, expressed her desire to be baptized into Christ's Kingdom, and was baptized by Rev. ———. All children of Protestant denomination who are old enough to read are given a morocco bound Bible on leaving the Shelter, the Catholic children their Prayer Books. We have what we call a Bible Fund. In the past year there has been \$6.00 donated to this fund. We have asked the churches of the city to furnish bibles for their own children who are brought into the Shelter.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would not close our report without expressing our grateful appreciation to the kind people of the city and outside places, who have so generously contributed to our work.

We would make mention of the kindly aid given by the papers of our city.

(Signed) MRS. MARGARET CORRY.
W. LAMB.

REPORT OF THE AGENT OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF CALGARY FROM NOVEMBER 1st, 1911, to OCTOBER 31, 1912.

R. B. CHADWICK, ESQ.,
Superintendent Neglected Children,
Edmonton, Alta.

SIR,—Since its organization in February, 1909, the history of the Children's Aid Society of Calgary has been one of steady development. The year just closed has been one of marked progress and achievement. Early in the year the office of the Agent was removed from the Shelter to the City Hall, where a staff of four are now at work, and where the weekly sessions of the Juvenile Court are held.

ASSISTANT ENGAGED

Owing to the expansion of the work consequent upon the rapid growth of the City, it was found necessary to engage an assistant, and on February 26th Mr. P. H. Tucker was duly appointed Assistant Probation Officer. Mr. Tucker's experience as an officer for eight years of the R. N. W. M. P. stood him in good stead and enabled him to render good service in the carrying on of the work, especially in relation to the investigation of cases and the visiting of the homes of Probationers, and other places under the supervision of the Society.

JUVENILE COURT INSTALLED

On April 22nd the Juvenile Court was regularly established with Mr. G. W. Morfitt as the first Commissioner appointed for this City under the Children's Protection Act. Some six weeks later the Lieutenant Governor in Council was pleased to appoint Dr. M. C. Costello and T. A. P. Frost, Esq., as Commissioners to hear and determine complaints against juvenile offenders. It is felt that no better selection could have been made. These men are giving, and giving gratis, much time and thought to this work, making the Court one of the very best of its kind in operation anywhere. When it is remembered that about thirty cases are dealt with each month, some idea is obtained as to the extent of the work being done by the Commissioners in the interests of Juvenile Delinquents and the community. No doubt the city gratefully appreciates this service and labour of love.

LADY PROBATION OFFICER APPOINTED

With these improved facilities and equipment for investigation, supervision and administration, the society was enabled to cope with the situation and to deal effectively with the various cases and problems demanding attention. Still, as time went on it became more and more apparent that there were phases of our work which needed the delicate touch and restraining influence of a woman's hand. So about November 1st, Mrs. Effie Bagnall was duly appointed to the position of Lady Probation Officer for the city. In helping to find good homes for girls, in teaching them better methods of living, in finding for them right and helpful forms of amusement and in safeguarding their interests generally, Mrs. Bagnall's time will doubtless be fully occupied. She will stand in the relation of mother and protector to the girls who come under her care, and it is confidently expected that her counsel and practical aid will count for much. Good homes are the pillars of the nation, and in order that we may have such homes, protection and help must be given, where necessary, to those who are to be the home makers of the future. This responsibility rests upon us as citizens.

DELINQUENT CASES

There has been a large increase in the number of delinquency cases dealt with. Some of these cases were of exceptional difficulty, requiring much care and thought in their investigation and disposal. The figures given below, though large enough, do not, by any means, represent the full extent of the work done by the Society in checking vicious tendencies, and inspiring a respect for law and order on the part of the wayward. Some of the best results obtained could not be statistically reported.

The following summary, however, may be of interest:

Delinquents Dealt With

Male	157
Female	15
Total	172

Offences

Theft	83
Mischief	15
Burglary	8
Vagrancy	14
Immorality	6
Using insulting language	2
Discharging fire-arms	6
Truancy	38
	<hr/>
	172

During the year 78 delinquents were put on probation and required to report regularly and promptly to the Probation Officer. It is gratifying to report that, with very few exceptions, delinquents who are thus given another chance, respond to the influences placed around them and make good. If a youth has any manly principle he cannot but appreciate and respond to the kindly efforts put forth to save him from the consequences of his folly. Where there is sympathetic co-operation with the Department on the part of parents, the results are usually most satisfactory. Here is a sample of some of the letters received from grateful parents: "I am pleased with the boy's change of conduct since you have taken them in hand. It has done them good to report to you every week. S. also takes a greater interest in his work at school. I trust this will be permanent, and that you will not hear of either S. or C. in the same way again."

NEWSBOYS LICENSES

In accordance with the provisions of the law in regard to newsboys, bootblacks and messenger boys, there were issued from the office of the Society, under the superintendence of Chief Cuddy, some 343 Licenses and Badges. The enforcement of this by-law is being felt in the suppression of child labour, the better control of the streets and in better attendance at school.

POOL-ROOMS

These places have been regularly and frequently visited throughout the year, and it is pleasing to report that as a result of constant personal inspection and general police supervision, the by-law relating to minors is being well observed.

THEATRES AND PICTURE SHOWS

Regarding these places there is no unfavourable report to make. The rules, recommended last year, relating to the exclusion of children during school hours and after 8 o'clock at night unless accompanied by parents, seem to be fairly well observed. Without wishing to reflect upon the general character of the pictures exhibited, the educational value of which is admitted, it may be observed that many of them are to say the least unsuitable for children, and calculated to suggest reckless adventure or distaste for ordinary life and work.

The matter of providing suitable and instructive shows for children, apart from the ordinary exhibition, is under consideration, and it is hoped that something in the nature of an improvement may result.

THE SHELTER

The old Maternity Hospital is still being used as a Shelter. Its proximity to the Isolation Hospital and general inadequacy to meet the requirements of the Society have been frequently referred to. It is pleasing to report, however, that plans for a new and up-to-date Children's Shelter have been approved by the Building Committee and the City Commissioners, and are now in the hands of the City Architect. It is expected that the new building will be ready for occupation before the end of the year.

The staff at the present time consists of a trained nurse as Matron, an assistant nurse, cook and janitor who resides in an adjoining cottage. There have been several changes in the staff during the latter part of the year. Miss Delcusse resigned her position as Matron on August 6th. Nurse McKay of the Scottish Nursing Home was temporarily engaged, and acted as Matron up to August 25th. Miss Fredericks of Edmonton took charge on August 25th, resigning some time later on account of illness. Miss Jean Gordon was appointed Matron on September 16th.

It is pleasing to report that the health of the children has been good throughout the year. Only two deaths occurred, one on March 1st at the General Hospital and the other at the Shelter on July 28th. Last year not a single death occurred, although through a typographical error in the Report, we were credited with eight deaths. In this connection it is only fair that special mention should be made of the valuable services rendered by Dr. Gibson as visiting physician. His readiness to respond to every call and the large number of visits made to the Shelter during the year, place the Society under a deep debt of gratitude to the genial doctor, whose much appreciated services were given free of charge. The following statistical summary of work done at the Shelter will be of interest

Children Cared for at Shelter

Aggregate number cared for, as per monthly report	290
Admitted	144
In Shelter November 1st, 1911	13
Discharged	131
Adopted	49
Returned to parents	61
Sent to hospital	9
Sent to reform school	3
Sent to convent	2
Sent to Industrial Home, Winnipeg	2
Work obtained for	2
Ran away	1
Died	2
Government charges	12
City charges	132
Number delinquent cases dealt with outside of Shelter	118
Number other supervision cases	42
Total number cases dealt with outside of Shelter	160
Number children dealt with at Shelter	157
Number cases dealt with outside of Shelter	160
Total number cases	317

Taking the total cost of maintenance as given below, and the total number of cases dealt with, 317, it will be seen that the per capita cost would be about \$26.00, an amount which can hardly be considered excessive.

The cost of maintenance of the Shelter for the year was \$5030.26. As an offset to this amount the Government contributed the sum of \$529.80 for the keep of children from outside points and \$580.85 was paid in

by parents of children cared for, making a total of \$1110.65. Besides this over \$1500 was raised through membership fees and private donations.

The various items of expense for maintenance are given below:

Salaries and petty cash	\$2059.97
Groceries and vegetables	542.03
Milk and cream	214.64
Water	36.60
Meat and fish	232.50
Laundry	115.11
Hardware	67.15
Fuel	618.24
Plumbing	67.50
Drugs	58.35
Telephone	27.20
Furniture	72.75
Light	61.69
Bread	75.00
Clothing	160.45
Sundries	621.43
Total cost	<u>\$5030.26</u>

Office Expenses, etc.

Salaries, staff of three	\$2718.00
Petty cash, stamps and transportation	235.00
Printing and advertising	19.00
Stationery	45.75
	<u>\$3017.75</u>

Total cost of maintenance, Shelter and office	\$8048.01
Monthly expenditure	671.00

If to the above amount is added the salary of the newly appointed Lady Probation Officer, the monthly expenditure will reach the sum of \$750.00, or an approximate total expenditure for the incoming year of \$9,000.00. The grant from the city for the year was \$7,000.

Besides the figures already given indicating something of the character and extent of the work being done, it might be incidentally stated that during the year, 823 visits were made to the homes of Probationers and others dealt with by the Society; also that during the same period some 1318 visits were made to other places, including pool-rooms, theatres, restaurants, etc. The preventive and deterrent effects of such visits cannot be measured in figures or tabulated in statistical form, yet the value remains.

Of course such work costs. But if "it is better to make good citizens than to punish criminals," it is work that pays splendidly. In protecting and caring for the homeless and dependent, in saving wayward youth from lives of crime and shame, the Society is rendering to the community and to the State the very highest kind of service, and well deserves to receive, as it is receiving, the most kindly recognition and support. During the year many encouraging tokens of appreciation and sympathy were received from many quarters, cheering and inspiring us all amid the difficulties and worries incident to the work.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Society would not close its report without expressing grateful appreciation of the city's generous aid and co-operation, so essential to the success of the work. Special mention would also be made of the kindly aid given by the Press in the publication of reports and notices relating to the work. To the firms and private citizens who so generously contributed money, clothing, food, toys, etc., especially at the Christmas season, to the teachers and scholars of the public schools for kindly remembrance and offerings, to the Churches and Sunday School scholars for their sympathetic interest, to Dr. Gibson for free and efficient services at the Shelter, to Doctors Blow and Smith for special treatment in several

cases, and to the trustees of Knox Church for the use of their schoolroom for meeting purposes, the thanks of the Society are also gratefully tendered.

(Signed) J. S. ARNOLD,
President.

(Signed) A. D. McDONALD,
Agent.

GENERAL REPORT OF BOYS FROM THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, AS PER REQUEST OF R. B. CHADWICK, ESQ.

Industrial Training School,
Portage la Prairie, Man.,
24th January, 1913.

R. B. CHADWICK, ESQ.,
Edmonton,
Alberta.

DEAR SIR,—We have at the present time fifty boys in this Institution from the Province of Alberta; ranging in age from nine years to nineteen years, who have been sent here for different offences, and the sentences vary from two to five years.

TREATMENT

On arriving, the boys have to take a bath, the temperature of which is regulated according to the season of the year; they are then clothed in the regulation dress, and as far as possible they are classified in the different dormitories according to their ages. All the boys are employed a portion of their time in some useful occupation, dusting or cleaning in some way until nine o'clock, when the younger ones go to school until half past eleven; they then wash themselves and get ready for dinner at twelve, after which they go out for three-quarter's of an hour's recreation, and at half-past one they go to school until four, when they are again allowed recreation until a quarter to six, when they have their supper. Two evenings a week are devoted to religious instruction including temperance, the other evenings are devoted to recreation until eight o'clock, when all go to bed. When a boy is old enough, and an opening occurs, he is put to learn one of the following trades under practical instructors: Tailoring, Shoemaking, Carpentering, Blacksmithing, Cooking or Farming. He then goes to school for half a day, and goes to his trade the other half.

We endeavour to instil into each boy the elementary rules of Reading, Writing, Spelling and Arithmetic, and also to give him, as far as possible, a knowledge of some trade. Religious services are held every Sunday, the services being taken in turn by all denominations.

We also have a brass band at the institution, under a very able instructor, at which any boy desiring to do so, may join. With the advantages of such an education in the school and trades, any boy should be able to make good. From what information we have received concerning the boys from Alberta, we think your government should be congratulated on the success of their work, in their efforts to uplift the fallen, and to assist the unfortunate, and the day is not far distant when some of those whom you have desired to help, will look back with gratitude and thankfulness on the day you first took them in hand.

We do not call this place a Reformatory, but a Training School, neither do we remind a boy that he is a prisoner; we rather let him feel that he is a pupil, and by kindness and firmness, we try to elevate and encourage him.

There is, however, one great drawback to our work, and that is in sending boys here who are over age. This is no place for them, and their influence over some of the younger ones makes our work very difficult, and sometimes negatives good work that has been done. In a great many of those cases we believe that a suspended sentence would do more good for them, than sending them there.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) JOHN WEIR,
Superintendent.



Six children in this home all neglected.

